

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 18, 2020

The Honorable Chad Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 2052

The Honorable Ken Cuccinelli  
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 2052

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf and Senior Official Cuccinelli,

Late this summer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) modified a contract that significantly reduced the level of support at the National Benefit Center (Center) offices in Missouri and Kansas. USCIS explained that it did so to save money after revenue loss brought on by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This decision resulted in the elimination of over 800 positions for contract workers in the Kansas City region.

We write to urge that USCIS strongly consider entering into a contract that returns to the previous level of support as soon as possible. Changes in circumstances warrant a reevaluation of the reasons that USCIS applied at the time of its decision to reduce its contract.

First, Congress has provided USCIS with additional sources of revenue to not only help USCIS' financial situation but to place the agency on better long-term financial footing. To be sure, USCIS' revenue from immigration services hit a low point at the beginning of the pandemic. Since that time, however, amounts in the Immigration Examinations Fee Account, where USCIS stores its revenue, has climbed. This happened even before Congress provided USCIS with additional sources of revenue. The combination of USCIS' increased and newly available sources of revenue puts the agency far past the low point that precipitated the significantly reduced level of support at the Center.

Second, the demand for immigration services warrants a pre-pandemic level of support. USCIS said in a September briefing that since reopening in July, field offices have increased the volume of in-person interviews, the paperwork for which is prepared at the Center. The volume of case work could vary throughout the pandemic. But we have been advised that each and every worker at the Center was fully engaged for 8 hours a day during the summer and that the Center's workload is increasing. The Center should have the staff necessary to provide back-of-the-house work that meets the demand for USCIS' immigration services, which means returning to the previous level of support.

USCIS' contract modification resulted in job losses for our constituents amidst an unprecedented health crisis and a severe economic downturn nationwide. We are concerned that USCIS will allow the Center's contract to remain at a reduced level of support. Congress has taken action to bolster the agency financially, and there is a demand for immigration services, including international adoption. In light of newly enacted additional sources of revenue and the Center's workload, there is little reason to delay returning over 800 positions to the Kansas City region.

Thank you for your attention and understanding.

Sincere Regards,



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



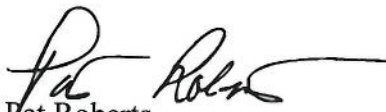
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Josh Hawley  
United States Senator



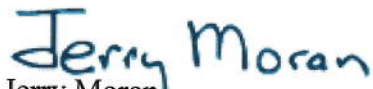
Roger Marshall, M.D.  
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