

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2018

L. Francis Cissna
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Director Cissna:

We write because we are alarmed by the new mission statement of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which omits language from the previous mission statement of "the promise of the United States as a nation of immigrants," and we urge you to reverse this change of important, longstanding policy and identity.

Any executive branch office is of course free to revise its mission statement within its discretion. However, it is extremely concerning that USCIS would choose to delete this particular phrase given current events in the world. This change suggests that the agency is ignoring our nation's heritage by driving a wedge between immigrants and native-born Americans, and suggests that the agency does not equally value such individuals under the law. Except for Native Americans, it is factually correct that all Americans descended from people who came from someplace else. Our nation was founded by immigrants seeking a better life. Moreover, immigrants are undeniably a core component of our country's cultural and economic identity. Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths as a nation. Your agency - which is responsible for administering our immigration laws and processing applications for permanent residence and citizenship from those who come to America seeking a better life - must understand this.

On February 22, 2018, you stated the following regarding the agency's new mission statement: "I believe this simple, straightforward statement clearly defines the agency's role in our country's lawful immigration system and the commitment we have to the American people." You did not specifically address the decision to delete the phrase, "the United States as a nation of immigrants." We respectfully request an explanation of your decision to remove this language from USCIS' mission statement.


We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,




Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

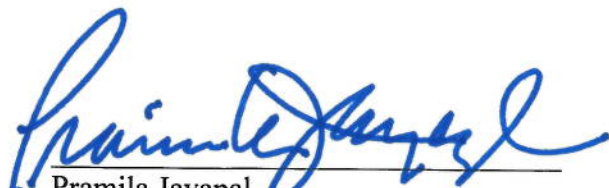

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

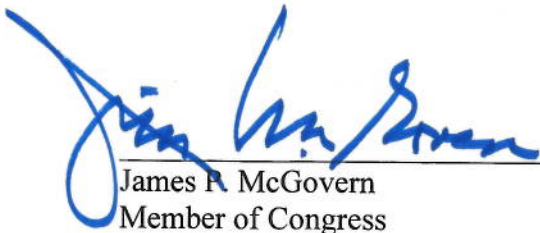

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress


Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

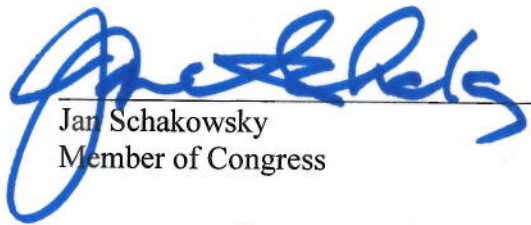

William R. Keating
Member of Congress



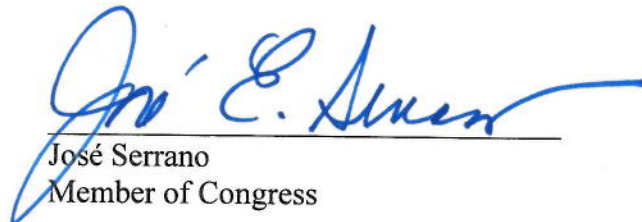
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



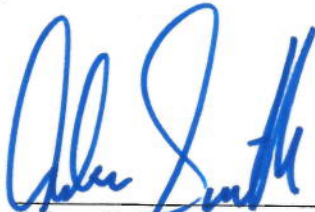
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



José Serrano
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress