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COMMITTEE ON STEERING AND POLICY

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

June 29, 2026

The Honorable Joseph B. Edlow  
Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
5900 Capital Gateway Drive  
Camp Spring, MD 20746

Dear Director Edlow:

This month marks the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has been a highly successful program that has provided temporary relief to hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children, or Dreamers.

The actions of U.S. Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) to delay the processing and renewals of DACA applications are causing economic hardship and emotional harm to these Dreamers, their families, their employers, and California's 29<sup>th</sup> District. I urge that you take immediate steps to address these delays and backlogs, such as providing automatic Employment Authorization Document extensions for DACA recipients applications being processed. This will ensure that DACA recipients are able to work and provide for their families and contribute to their community's economic well-being while USCIS clears its backlog. Additionally, other employment authorization categories receive automatic extensions when renewal applications are filed on time.

As you know, DACA recipients undergo the highest standard of vetting through their biannual renewal process. To be eligible for the DACA program, individuals must have arrived in the U.S. before age 16, maintained continuous residence in the United States since 2007, have no felony or significant misdemeanor convictions, and pass continuous background checks.

My constituents with DACA status continue to report extraordinary delays in USCIS processing times. These prolonged delays prevent DACA recipients from maintaining valid work authorization, placing their livelihoods and employment at risk. As a result, many are experiencing severe financial hardship and face the prospect of unemployment, housing instability, immigration detention, and removal due to the lack of proper documentation caused through no fault of their own by delayed adjudications. These consequences extend beyond individual DACA recipients and their families – it also affects our local and broader economy. In my district, constituents have already lost their jobs and are facing eviction because of USCIS's failure to adjudicate applications in a timely fashion.

In light of these significant consequences, prompt adjudication of DACA renewal applications is critical to safeguarding the economic security and well-being of hardworking individuals, their families, and the communities that depend on their contributions. I am urging you to take immediate steps to address the USCIS renewal backlogs and ensure these renewals are completed in a reasonable time frame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luz M. Rivas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "L".

Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress  
California's Twenty-Ninth District

CC: Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin