

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Joseph B. Edlow  
Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Dear Secretary Noem and Director Edlow:

We write to express serious concerns regarding delays in the processing of renewal applications under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Across the country, DACA recipients are reporting significant processing delays for their renewal applications. Many applicants who filed their renewals on time and in accordance with agency guidance are experiencing prolonged adjudication periods that extend beyond their current period of deferred action and employment authorization. We urge you to take all steps within your power to process renewal applications in a timely manner and protect the DACA recipients who rely on this program and who contribute so much to this country.

DACA has allowed hundreds of thousands of Dreamers an opportunity to pursue higher education and meaningful careers while remaining in the only home they have ever known. Delays in processing DACA renewals are increasing the instability and uncertainty that DACA recipients already face. These delays can have profound consequences. When renewals are not processed before expiration, recipients lose employment authorization and, in many cases, their jobs. Employers experience workforce disruptions, including in sectors such as health care and education and in small businesses. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizen children have a parent with DACA, and when their work authorization lapses due to slow renewals, families endure heightened financial instability.

Most concerning, a lapse in DACA can result in an increased risk of being detained and even deported by federal immigration officials. Our offices have heard examples of constituents whose DACA has lapsed due to renewal delays being picked up by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A DACA recipient whose only change of circumstance is a pending renewal application should not be at risk of their entire life being thrown into chaos due to indiscriminate immigration enforcement.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has also failed to provide clear notice as to policies or procedures that may be worsening this issue. For example, in helping our constituents address DACA renewal delays, some casework staff have been told that requests to expedite renewals will only be considered for recipients who work in the health care industry. While DACA health care workers are essential to the functioning of our local communities, they are by

no means the only DACA recipients whose cases meet the agency's criteria to expedite a renewal.

Many casework staff have also been informed that USCIS has frozen DACA renewal processing for individuals from 39 countries subject to President Trump's national security proclamations. This decision, which has not been publicly announced, could indefinitely delay the DACA renewal of thousands of beneficiaries, subjecting them to potential detention and removal to countries where they did not grow up.

To better understand and address these concerns, we request detailed responses to the following questions:

1. What is the current average processing time for DACA renewal applications?
2. What steps is USCIS taking to ensure that timely filed renewal applicants do not experience lapses in employment authorization? What is the timeline for executing those steps?
3. What changes have been made to USCIS's policies, procedures, and guidance regarding DACA renewals since January 20, 2025?
4. What are USCIS's policies, procedures, and guidance regarding requests to expedite DACA renewals?
5. What steps does USCIS plan to take to ensure that renewals filed earlier than 150 days in advance of expiration are processed in a timely manner?
6. Does USCIS provide information to ICE regarding individuals' DACA expiration dates?
7. Does USCIS provide information to ICE regarding individuals' pending DACA renewals?
8. Does USCIS otherwise share information with ICE regarding DACA holders or facilitate the arrest, detention, or removal of DACA holders or individuals with renewals for DACA pending? If so, please describe this information sharing and/or facilitation in detail.
9. How many individuals with DACA renewal pending have been detained?
  - a. How many remain in immigration custody?
  - b. How many have been removed?
10. How many pending DACA renewals have been filed as of March 1, 2026 that are subject to the adjudicative hold for countries listed in Presidential Proclamations 10949 and 10998?
11. How many pending DACA renewals have been filed as of March 1, 2026, that are subject to any other adjudicative holds? Please provide the number per type of adjudicative hold.

DACA recipients contribute billions of dollars annually to the national economy and serve vital roles in our communities. Administrative delays in DACA renewals undermine not only individual stability but also broader economic resilience.

To reduce these disruptions and risks for DACA recipients, we urge you to reduce processing times for DACA renewal applications and reduce the volume of pending cases through timely renewals. We request a written response by April 17, 2026. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



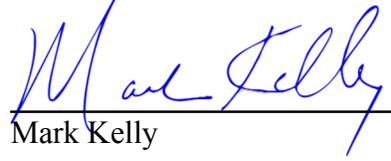
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Martin Heinrich  
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Mazie K. Hirono  
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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Andy Kim  
United States Senator



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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



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Elissa Slotkin  
United States Senator



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Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



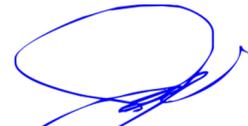
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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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John Fetterman  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



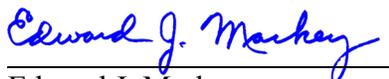
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

Cc: Senator Markwayne Mullin  
Cc: Incoming Secretary of Homeland Security