

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2026

Joseph Edlow
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Capital Gateway Drive
Camp Springs, Maryland 20746

Dear Director Edlow:

I write to raise serious concerns about growing delays in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) processing of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal applications. My office is seeing an unacceptable increase in casework requests from DACA recipients as their renewal applications are taking months longer than in previous years. USCIS must address these unnecessary delays, which are putting these hardworking individuals, their families, their workplaces and their communities at risk.

DACA provides critical protections for immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children and have only ever known the United States as home. DACA protects eligible individuals from deportation and gives them work authorization, but those protections must be renewed every two years. Each renewal requires recipients to prove they continue to meet strict eligibility requirements and pay hundreds of dollars in fees. The consequences of a lapse are severe. If an eligible DACA recipient's status is not renewed in time, it means they are no longer able to work and immediately at risk of deportation.

New Mexico is home to over 4,000 DACA recipients. These individuals pay over \$47 million in state and local taxes, are business owners and critical workers, and are important pillars in our communities. Over the last 14 years, these hardworking individuals have also built lives and families. In New Mexico, an estimated 2,400 children have a parent who is a DACA recipient, so these delays harm American kids and families too.

Reports indicate that USCIS is taking up to nine months to process renewals and allowing eligible applications to lapse. USCIS' own data shows the average processing time for DACA renewals 2023 was one month in 2023 and less than two months in 2024. Now, USCIS is encouraging DACA recipients to submit their renewal request 120 to 150 days in advance but that still may not be enough.

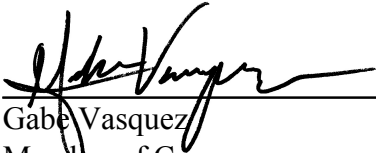
Just this year, over 40 DACA recipients have reached out to my office asking for help. These individuals filed within the recommended 120-150 day window, paid all required fees, and submitted required paperwork — yet despite playing by the rules and fulfilling all requirements on their end, these folks still are at risk of losing their DACA protections due to USCIS' delays.

Each of these 40 individuals is more than a number or file, they are medical professionals, teachers and school employees, public safety officers, and work at our local businesses. Despite following all the rules, these individuals continue to call my office, ask for help, and tell stories of how they live in fear that their DACA status will not be renewed in time, they will lose their job and the health insurance that supports their family,

and in a worst case scenario, they will be separated from their loved ones and deported to a country they have never known.

I urge USCIS to address these processing delays immediately. DACA recipients have done their part and USCIS should do the same.

Sincerely,



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress