

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 5, 2025

Joseph B. Edlow, Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
5900 Capital Gateway Dr
Camp Springs, Maryland
20746

Dear Director Edlow,

We write to express deep concern regarding USCIS's recently announced interim final rule ending the automatic extension of employment authorization documents (EADs) for individuals who have filed timely renewal applications. This change, to be implemented while significant processing backlogs persist, will have devastating consequences for workers, families, and employers across the country.

USCIS's own data makes clear that the agency continues to face severe delays in adjudicating EAD renewals. As a result, individuals who have already been deemed legally authorized to work will lose their jobs for no other reason than the government choosing not to process their paperwork in time. Ending automatic extensions under these conditions is effectively penalizing people for USCIS's administrative shortcomings.

Compounding this problem, current regulations only allow applicants to file for a renewal up to 180 days – six months – before their work permit expires. Yet, at the time of the rule's publication, the agency's average processing time for many the EAD categories covered by the extension exceeds six and a half months¹. This gap ensures that, even when applicants submit their renewals at the earliest possible date, their authorization will lapse before a new document can be issued. In practice, this rule guarantees that lawfully employed individuals will be forced out of the workforce through no fault of their own.

This policy shift is not only unfair, but economically reckless. Employers in practically every sector—from health care and education to agriculture and food services—are all seeking to fill open positions. Removing the ability from employers to employ those who are work authorized, tax-paying, and essential to our communities drastically undermines our economy and puts unnecessary burden on business owners who are already struggling to make ends meet.

We strongly urge USCIS to withdraw this rule and instead focus on addressing the underlying backlogs that have caused these delays. If the agency proceeds, it must at-minimum delay implementation until it can demonstrate that renewal applications will be processed within a timeframe that prevents lapses in employment authorization. Anything less will cause significant harm to workers, businesses, and the U.S. economy.

¹U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (2025, October 29). *Check Case Processing Times*. Case Status Online. Retrieved October 29, 2025, from <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your response outlining the steps USCIS intends to take to ensure that employment-authorized individuals are not stripped of their ability to work due to agency inaction.

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



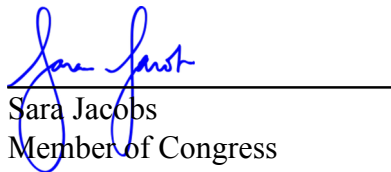
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
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André Carson
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



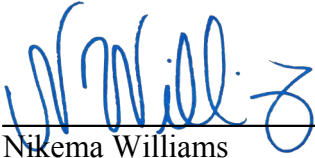
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



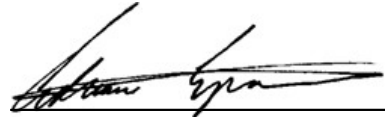
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



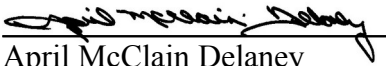
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



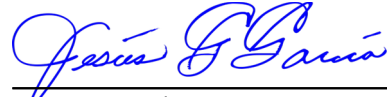
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



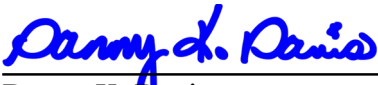
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



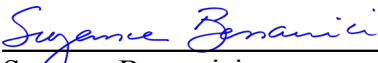
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



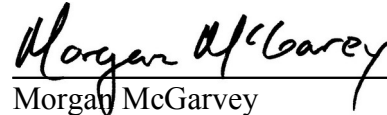
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



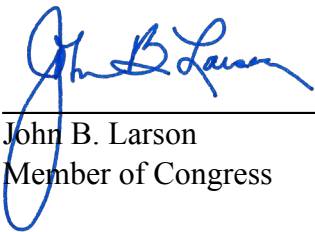
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



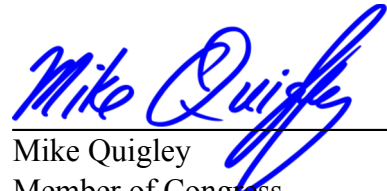
Suzanne Bonamici
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Morgan McGarvey
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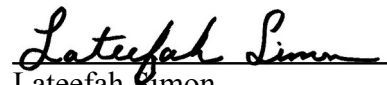
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
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Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



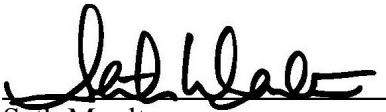
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



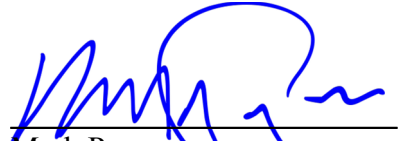
Dina Titus
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Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



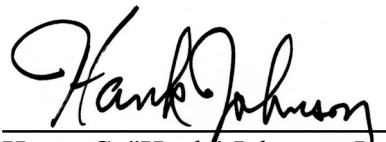
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



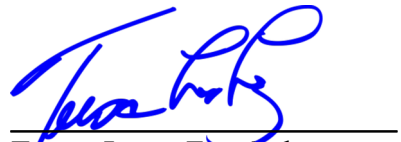
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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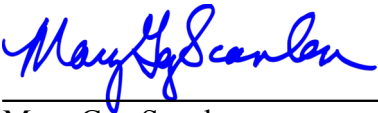
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
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Greg Landsman
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Brittany Pettersen
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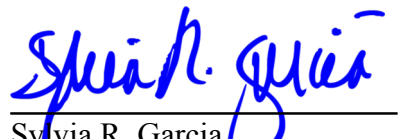
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



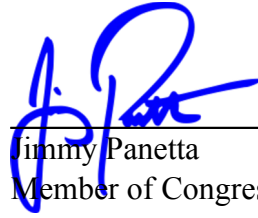
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



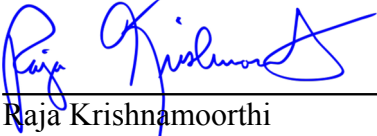
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



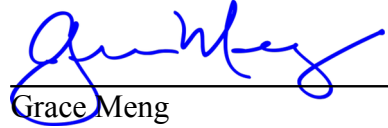
Gwen S. Moore
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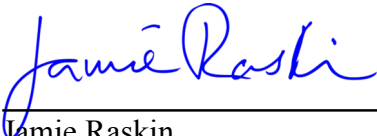
Jimmy Panetta
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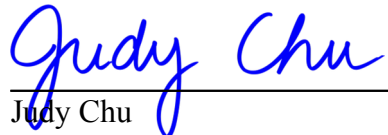
Jamie Raskin
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Diana DeGette
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Ilhan Omar
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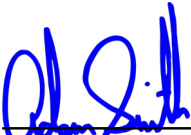
Judy Chu
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Zoe Lofgren
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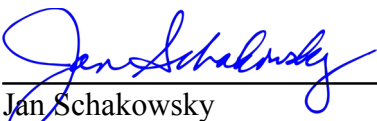
Rashida Tlaib
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MARK TAKANO
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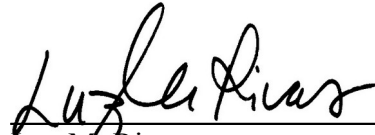
Jan Schakowsky
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Maxine Dexter
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Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



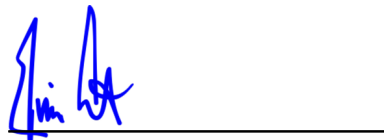
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



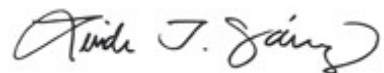
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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James P. McGovern
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Jared Huffman
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