

Jowett, Haley L

From: Neufeld, Donald W
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 8:22 AM
To: Cowan, Robert M; Renaud, Daniel M; Monica, Donald J; McCament, James W
Cc: Robinson, Terri A; Tauchen, Robert B; Blackburn, Brandi A
Subject: RE: Fax Received From I-130 Petitioner

Thanks, Rob. In my view, it is what it is.

From: Cowan, Robert M
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 4:58 PM
To: Renaud, Daniel M; Monica, Donald J; McCament, James W; Neufeld, Donald W
Cc: Robinson, Terri A; Tauchen, Robert B; Blackburn, Brandi A
Subject: FW: Fax Received From I-130 Petitioner

Don, Don, Dan and James,

I'm not sure if this has legs, but wanted to make sure you were aware of it.

An I130 petitioner (filed in June of this year) did an independent analysis of receipt and adjudication trends relating to DACA 821a and I130 Immediate Relatives and asserts that USCIS did not effectively balance workload and his not accurately reported processing time information in the wake of the DACA policy implementation. Here's a sample:

During the 12 month period, from August 2012-July 2013; USCIS received 573,404 DACA requests and processed 430,236: a rate of 75%. By comparison, in the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2013, USCIS received 254,890 I-130 petitions at the National Benefits Center but processed only 2,755: a rate of only 1%. Ineffective balancing of workload among service centers and clear prioritization for other case types resulted in the massive backlog in I-130s that USCIS is now acknowledging. I believe that reallocation of

I deserve honesty and accountability, and seek to ensure that the I-130 petition of my spouse will not be further delayed due to the DACA (I-821D) plan. I request that processing data be evaluated and brought into alignment across USCIS so that my family may set expectations accordingly. In addition, I request that the House Judiciary Committee compels the USCIS to bring the processing timeline to 5 months or less by February 1, 2014; given that extended wait times at USCIS are only the beginning of a longer process which will keep families apart for substantially over a year. To meet the administration's goal of humanely reuniting families, these delays must be viewed in context of the broader visa application process, and the USCIS must be held accountable for its role in providing efficient, humane service for citizens and their immediate relatives.

As for his case, we are currently shipping May cases to Service Centers, so his case is queuing up. I anticipate that it will be completed in 90 days or so.

He copied Representative Chris Collins (NY-27th) and USCIS Ombudsman Maria Odum on the fax.

We have not take action to expedite his case.

We are available to discuss at your convenience.

Robert Cowan

Center Director, USCIS National Benefits Center
robert.m.cowan@uscis.dhs.gov

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

fax: 816-251-2330

WARNING: This document is FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). This document is to be controlled, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS policy relating to Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information and is not to be released to the public or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval from the originator.

From: Tauchen, Robert B
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 11:59 AM
To: Cowan, Robert M
Cc: Robinson, Terri A; Limon, Norma A; Limoncelli, Donald J
Subject: FW: Fax Received From I-130 Petitioner

Rob,

Here's the fax from an I-130 petitioner that I mentioned to you. His immediate relative petition was filed in early June 2013. On our current shipping schedule I'd expect this case to be sent back to SCOPS for adjudication within the next 30 days. (We're already shipping May 2013 cases).

As discussed, there's really no request for action...just a discussion of concern over I-130 backlogs and, unless you think otherwise, we plan to just let this case ride through to SCOPS with the rest of the I-130s in date order. However, because copies of this letter apparently went to his congressional representative and the Ombudsman we wanted to make sure you saw it. As Don L. mentions, it might be worth a heads up to HQ since these types of letters are often part of a larger orchestrated letter writing campaign with potential to make it to the front office.

Bob

Robert Tauchen
Chief of Staff
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
National Benefits Center
Lee's Summit, MO

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Robert.B.Tauchen@uscis.dhs.gov

WARNING: This document is FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). This document is to be controlled, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS policy relating to Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information and is not to be released to the public or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval from the originator.

From: Limoncelli, Donald J
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 11:25 AM
To: Limon, Norma A
Cc: Tauchen, Robert B
Subject: Fax Received From I-130 Petitioner

Norma,

(b)(6)

The attached is a fax NBC received from [REDACTED] who is an I-130 petitioner concerned about his petition for his spouse. In the fax he mentions the difference in processing times for DACA I-821D and I-130 petitions and raises his

concern that I-130s in general, and his spouse's I-130 in particular, are not being processed in a timely way because more effort is being devoted by USCIS to processing form I-821D than I-130.

For your info, the I-130 receipt file is located here at NBC at the Overland Park annex. The processing time for I-130s on the USCIS web page is 12 Feb 2013. The petitioner's I-130 was received 5 June 2013. [redacted] does not ask for the petition to be expedited.

(b)(6)

Also, the fax contains notations at the bottom that it was being sent to Maria Odom in the USCIS Ombudsman's office and U.S. Rep Chris Collins as well. A check of both Omnitrack and LETS shows no entry for the inquiry. We also do not have an email from either office asking for assistance.

This is an issue I believe Rob Cowan will be interested in, and may want to pass to Jim McCament, as it highlights a concern other applicants may have about USCIS processing times for these applications, and which they may be passing along to their members of Congress.

Thanks,

Don Limoncelli

National Benefits Center

Customer Relations - Congressional Lead

Phone [redacted] Fax (816) 251-2771

(b)(6)