

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
and Science  
H-310 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
and Science  
1036 Longworth  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include robust funding for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). It is critical that EOIR has the resources to do its critical work.

The primary mission of EOIR is to adjudicate immigration cases by fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly interpreting and administering the nation's immigration laws. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, EOIR conducts immigration court proceedings, appellate review, and administrative hearings. It is essential that EOIR hire highly qualified, diverse immigration judges to ensure the adjudication process is impartial and consistent with due process. Doing so is important not only to those currently participating in the process but to everyone in the country.

A well-functioning immigration court system is vital to achieving the objectives of our immigration laws consistent with our values. Unfortunately, a backlog of immigration cases to be adjudicated continues to grow. At the beginning of 2021, immigration courts had a 1.3 million case backlog. Although the Biden Administration has prioritized EOIR over the last year, the backlog in the immigration courts has grown to nearly 1.7 million cases, with the pandemic and policy changes from the previous administration exacerbating an already stressed pipeline. <sup>[1]</sup>

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1 <https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/637/>

This backlog impedes the functioning of our immigration system, creating a significant barrier for people legally seeking asylum, migrants, pregnant women, and people with disabilities that seek to enter the United States. These complex cases can take up to three years before receiving a hearing, leaving migrants, families, and communities in legal limbo as they wait for hearings and decisions. Even with improvements and measures from the Biden administration, there is still a great deal of work to be done.

That is why we request that Congress continue to fund EOIR to increase adjudicatory and case processing capacity to decrease the pending caseload. It is critical that EOIR has sufficient adjudicative resources to ensure a well-functioning and fair system consistent with our values and in the interest of all. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to provide robust funding for this program in the Fiscal Year 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



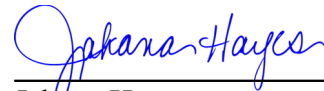
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



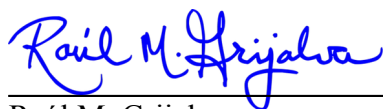
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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



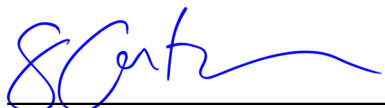
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

*André Carson*

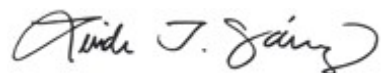
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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress