

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2025

The Honorable Kika Scott
Acting Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
5900 Capital Gateway Drive
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Dear Acting Director Scott,

We write to express our outrage regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) decision to terminate all work under the Citizenship and Assimilation (C&A) Grant Program. On March 27, 2025, grantees were notified of the decision, with some facing immediate termination and others receiving a 30-day notice period ending on April 26, 2025. **We demand immediate action to restore funding for the C&A Program and a prompt response to our questions regarding the rationale and legal basis for its termination.**

This action marks a significant escalation since an abrupt funding freeze was announced just weeks ago on February 4, 2025. We wrote in a [March 7 letter](#) expressing deep concern with this funding freeze, and have yet to receive a response from your agency. The sudden and unilateral decision to terminate legally awarded grants funded by Congressional appropriation, without prior notice to Congress or affected grantees, raises serious concerns about due process, legal authority, and the Department's commitment to advancing naturalization services for aspiring citizens.

First established in 2009, the C&A program was created to provide support to public and nonprofit organizations in providing citizenship preparation services to lawful permanent residents. Over the years, the program has successfully enabled grantees to launch new U.S. citizenship instruction programs, enhance the quality and accessibility of existing services, and continue providing integration services to immigrant communities across the United States. Additionally, the program has also helped strengthen organizations by providing resources to hire personnel and deliver services more cost-effectively. However, the funding freeze and subsequent termination have severely diminished organizational capacity, leading to shortages in legal services and integration initiatives. As a result, individuals eligible for naturalization have been impacted as assistance has come to a halt.

In light of these serious concerns, we request clear and immediate responses to the following questions in order to clarify the basis for this decision and assess the need for appropriate congressional oversight:

1. What legal authority does USCIS or DHS have to unilaterally terminate congressionally appropriated and legally executed grants—especially in the absence of grantee noncompliance?
2. What specific evidence supports the claim that the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program no longer serves programmatic goals or DHS priorities, and who authorized this determination?

3. What is DHS's plan to remedy the significant operational and financial harm caused to grantees and the communities they serve, many of whom now face immediate service disruption?
4. Why has USCIS failed to respond to our [March 7 congressional letter](#), despite the program's national influence and the grave implications of its termination?
5. Will DHS immediately suspend the termination decision until Congress receives a full accounting and oversight process can be conducted?

Given the profound implications of this decision, we urge USCIS and DHS to uphold their commitment to transparency, accountability, and affected communities by restoring these grants. The abrupt termination of a longstanding and effective grant program—carried out without explanation or consultation—raises serious concerns about governance, oversight, and public trust. We request your immediate and detailed response to the questions outlined above and expect DHS and USCIS to engage constructively with Congress on this issue.

CC: The Honorable Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Sincerely,


Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress


Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress


Andre Carson
Member of Congress


Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress


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



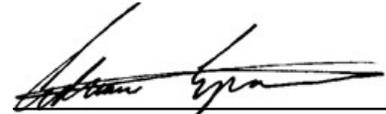
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



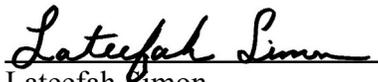
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



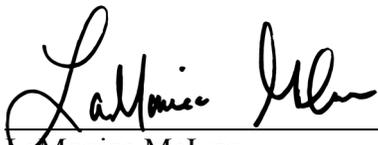
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
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Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
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Pramila Jayapal
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Seth Moulton
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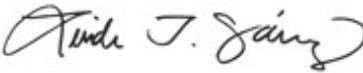
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Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress
, Rules and Organization of the
House



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Veronica Escobar
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Chellie Pingree
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Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



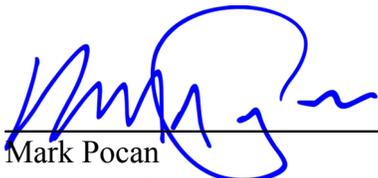
Luz M. Rivas
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Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



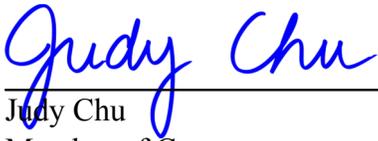
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Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



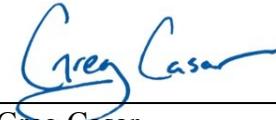
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



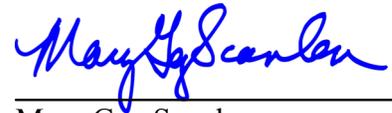
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



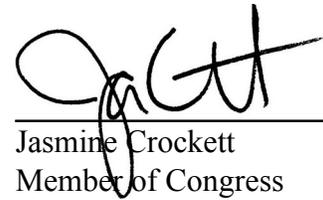
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



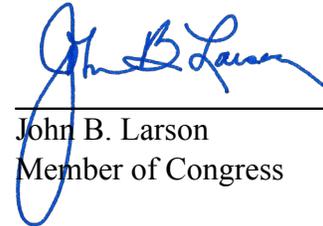
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Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
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Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
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Diana DeGette
Member of Congress