



**ADVISORY BOARD**

Hon. John Burton  
Hon. Nancy Pelosi

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Cynthia Alvarez  
Richard Boswell  
W. Hardy Callcott  
Aidin Castillo  
Tsiou Gurmu  
Bill Ong Hing  
Luca D. Mangini  
Anita Martinez  
Toni Rembe  
Rudy Ruano  
Guadalupe Sordia-Ortiz  
Lisa Spiegel  
Mawuena Tendar  
Hon. James L. Warren (Ret.)  
Allen S. Weiner

**GENERAL COUNSEL**

Bill Ong Hing

**OF COUNSEL**

Don Ungar

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Eric Cohen

---

**San Francisco**

1458 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**Washington, D.C.**

600 14th Street, NW  
Suite 502  
Washington, D.C. 20005

**San Antonio**

10127 Morocco Street  
Suite 149  
San Antonio, TX 78216

**Austin**

6633 East Hwy 290  
Suite 102  
Austin, TX 78723

**Houston**

540 Heights Blvd  
Suite 205  
Houston, TX 77007

ilrc@ilrc.org  
www.ilrc.org



February 5, 2023

Samantha Deshombres  
Chief, Regulatory Coordinator  
Division Office of Policy and Strategy  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security

Re: Comment in Response to the DHS/USCIS Agency Information Collection Activities;  
Revision of a Currently Approved Collection: Application for Travel Document, USCIS–  
2007–0045; OMB Control Number 1615–0013.

*Submitted via Regulations.gov*

Dear Chief Deshombres,

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) submits the following comment in response to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Agency Information Collection Activities; Revision of a Currently Approved Collection: Application for Travel Document, published on December 7, 2023.

The ILRC is a national non-profit organization that provides legal trainings, educational materials, and advocacy to advance immigrant rights. The ILRC’s mission is to work with and educate immigrants, community organizations, and the legal sector to continue to build a democratic society that values diversity and the rights of all people. Since its inception in 1979, the ILRC has provided technical assistance on hundreds of thousands of immigration law issues, trained thousands of advocates, and pro bono attorneys annually on immigration law, distributed thousands of practitioner guides, provided expertise to immigrant-led advocacy efforts across the country, and supported hundreds of immigration legal non-profit organizations in building their capacity.

The ILRC is also a leader in interpreting family-based immigration law as well as VAWA, U, and T immigration relief for survivors, producing trusted legal resources including webinars, trainings, and manuals such as Families & Immigration: A Practical Guide; The VAWA Manual: Immigration Relief for Abused Immigrants; The U Visa: Obtaining Status for Immigrant Survivors of Crime; and T Visas: A Critical Option for Survivors of Human Trafficking. Through our extensive network with service providers, immigration practitioners, and immigration benefits applicants, we have developed a profound understanding of the barriers faced by vulnerable immigrant and low-income communities – including survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, or other forms of trauma.

The ILRC commends the agency on the addition of another gender marker option included on the form. The ILRC has advocated for this change on other forms and we remain appreciative of the agency's efforts in this area to ensure those applicants who identify as non-binary are able to obtain immigration and travel documentation that is reflective of their gender identity.

We note the significant change in length for the proposed version of the form. While we recognize the agency's efforts to provide more instructive language on the form itself, especially given the widespread use of this particular form, the proposed form is more than double the length of the current form. Longer forms present a challenge for pro se applicants to navigate and may discourage them from applying for a benefit for which they are eligible. The ILRC urges USCIS to reconsider the revisions to the form with an eye toward the burden on pro se applicants and move some of the instructive or categorizing language back to the instructions.

Finally, ILRC urges USCIS to specifically authorize parole for U petitioners and their family members with pending petitions. The regulations authorize entry through parole for those on the waitlist who are abroad. Specifically, 8 CFR § 214.14(d)(2) instructs USCIS to grant parole once the ten thousand U cap has been met: "USCIS *will* grant deferred action or parole to U-1 petitioners and qualifying family members while the U-1 petitioners are on the waiting list" (emphasis added). Although the Obama administration finally announced a formalized procedure at the end of 2016, USCIS has thus far failed to implement a streamlined process to grant parole to this group of applicants, despite specific regulatory authority. In the absence of an explicit policy, petitioners and their family members are stuck outside of the country while their cases pend for years, or stuck inside the United States unable to travel to see loved ones and return.

Please reach out to Elizabeth Taufa, [etaufa@ilrc.org](mailto:etaufa@ilrc.org), if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/Elizabeth Taufa

Elizabeth Taufa

Policy Attorney and Strategist