



Testimony
of

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before the

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Subcommittee on Homeland Security

on

The Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

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Chairman Amodei, Ranking Member Cuellar, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today regarding the Administration's FY 2027 Budget Request for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). I am honored to represent the dedicated men and women of USCIS, and I appreciate your continued commitment and partnership as we work together to protect American citizens, uphold the rule of law, root out fraud, and safeguard our homeland.

I want to thank President Trump for placing his trust in me as I carry out my duties as Director. I am thrilled to continue this work with Secretary Mullin, in his capacity as leader of the Department of Homeland Security.

As Director of USCIS, my vision has been clear: to restore accountability and security to our legal immigration system, ensuring that it serves the interests of the American people above all else. Over the past year, USCIS has made historic strides in advancing this mission, including:

- Combating fraud;
- Implementation of the Working Families Tax Cut Act;
- Ending the exploitation of immigration programs;
- Efforts to uphold the integrity of the naturalization process;
- Initiatives to put American communities and workers first;
- Protecting American communities from threats to public safety and national security.

Building on these achievements, the President's FY 2027 Budget Request demonstrates the Administration's ongoing commitment to protecting American workers, ensuring the integrity of our immigration process, and assisting employers in verifying employment eligibility. A key component of these efforts is E-Verify, an essential tool that ensures only individuals authorized to work in the United States are employed, playing a critical role in eliminating unauthorized employment and supporting national security. As participation on E-Verify continues to increase due to federal contractors and state mandates, additional resources are necessary to maintain the system's reliability and responsiveness. Accordingly, the FY 2027 DHS Congressional Budget Justification requests approximately \$113 million for E-Verify operations and enhancements.

E-VERIFY

For those who may not know, E-Verify is a web-based system that helps employers confirm the work eligibility of their newly hired employees—as well as some current employees assigned to certain qualifying federal contracts—by electronically matching information provided by an employee on Form I-9, "Employment Eligibility Verification," against records available in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Social Security Administration (SSA), Department of State (DOS), and state and local systems (DMVs). This program supports the U.S. economy by ensuring a legal workforce, protecting American jobs, and plays a central role in enforcing immigration law.

The funding used to conduct this critical work only represents 1% of the total USCIS budget and is the only appropriated funding that USCIS receives from Congress. Although E-Verify operates with a modest share of our budget, the program must continually adapt and improve to meet

evolving policies, processes, and technical environments in a fast-paced, politically visible environment. To maintain reliable service and deliver results for employers, ongoing enhancements require additional funding.

But the return on investment into E-Verify is clear. In FY 2025, U.S. employers created 44 million cases, representing 60% of new hires in the U.S. Also, in FY 2025, E-Verify issued 25,000 final “Not Employment Authorized” confirmations and locked over 10,000 Social Security numbers that had indications of fraud or identity theft, preventing those from being used to fraudulently obtain employment authorization. As of March 30, 2026, there are 1.4 million employers enrolled in E-Verify, representing 3.5 million hiring sites. Federal contractors are required to enroll in E-Verify. States may require employers to use E-Verify after voluntarily partnering with USCIS. Enrollment in E-Verify is voluntary for states, while federal contractors are required to enroll. Recent surveys show high employer satisfaction, with 91% overall satisfaction and 93% confidence in E-Verify’s accuracy.

As a cornerstone tool that USCIS uses to uphold the integrity of the American workforce, E-Verify continues to deliver measurable results and high satisfaction among employers nationwide.

Fiscal Health

While E-Verify demonstrates the impact that targeted investments can have on protecting American jobs and supporting employers, maintaining the overall fiscal health of USCIS remains essential to sustaining not only E-Verify, but also other critical programs as well. USCIS’ fiscal health remains strong, and our financial outlook is good.

Unlike appropriated agencies, USCIS does not receive new funding at the beginning of a new fiscal year. Like a business, USCIS must closely monitor revenue, expenses, and carryover and strategically map out and forecast how available resources will be allocated to meet operational needs and support mission-critical programs throughout the year.

In FY 2025, USCIS collected \$7.5 billion in Immigration Examinations Fee Account (IEFA) revenue—USCIS’ primary collections account—which was 6.7% higher than forecasted. Total expenditures for the year were \$6 billion, resulting in a carryover balance of \$4.1 billion at the start of FY 2026—which is \$2.1 billion above our carryover target.

For FY 2026, USCIS projects IEFA revenue of \$6.4 billion, and collections are currently on track to meet this forecast. Through the end of February 2026, USCIS collected \$2.4 billion in IEFA revenue, which is within 4% of the forecast. Planned spending for FY 2026 is \$7.2 billion, which exceeds projected revenue by \$700 million. This difference will be funded using available carryover resources to responsibly bring down current carryover levels to our carryover target of \$2 billion. IEFA revenue is projected to increase by approximately \$388 million in FY 2027 from FY 2026, largely due to projected employment authorization document (EAD) renewals.

Sound fiscal management requires the agency to maintain a minimum carryover amount to start the new fiscal year. Additionally, carryover is used to bridge the gap between current revenue

collections and agency requirements during periods of low revenue. Our carryover is well above our minimum amount, so operations are able to continue without interruption. Over the past two years, USCIS has left an average of \$370 million in IEFA funding unspent. The lapsed funding contributes to USCIS' carryover available for spending in following fiscal years.

Implementation of the Working Families Tax Cut Act

Sound fiscal management is the foundation for USCIS' ability to adapt and deliver on its mission. As we look ahead, this financial discipline positions us to successfully carry out transformative legislation like the Working Families Tax Cut Act, which introduces new opportunities and challenges for our agency.

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed the Working Families Tax Cut Act into law, introducing new provisions and fees to the Immigration and Nationality Act. USCIS moved swiftly to implement the requirements of this landmark legislation, publishing Federal Register Notices and updating our policies, guidance, and intake procedures to close loopholes and ensure compliance.

The bill introduced fees for specific USCIS benefit requests, with portions designated to support USCIS and other government entities. Fees mandated by the bill are non-waivable and non-reducible, regardless of eligibility for waivers under other USCIS regulations. The law requires DHS to make annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers to ensure fees reflect inflation and economic conditions.

Through the implementation of new immigration fees, \$388 million has been collected, of which USCIS retains only a small portion, with most of the revenue deposited into the general fund of the Treasury. The revenue not deposited into the general fund supports not only USCIS, but also the Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). The bill also established new fees for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). USCIS does not collect or track revenue for CBP or ICE.

Our efforts to enforce the Working Families Tax Cut Act have strengthened the integrity of our legal immigration system, reinforced accountability, and ensured that USCIS resources are directed toward lawful, properly filed cases. We have updated intake procedures to close loopholes, limit improper fee waivers, and reject applications that do not comply with the law. These critical efforts have reinforced accountability and ensured that USCIS resources are directed toward lawful, properly filed cases.

Conclusion

In closing, our commitment to ensuring integrity in the U.S. immigration system remains steadfast. But I would be remiss if I did not mention that as the longest shutdown in history continues, USCIS strongly asks the House to pass the Senate DHS funding bill and work expeditiously to enact a second reconciliation measure by June 1st to provide sustained funding to our partners at ICE and Border Patrol. Through enhanced screening and vetting, we are dedicated to deterring, detecting, and disrupting immigration fraud and threats to our national security and public safety. We continue to fortify our ability to process and issue accurate and

timely eligibility determinations, strictly adhering to U.S. immigration law, regulations, and policy. By optimizing resources for modern mission delivery, we are positioned to meet evolving challenges and uphold the highest standards of service and security for the nation. The accomplishments of the past year reflect the hard work and dedication of our workforce, the leadership of President Trump and our shared commitment to putting the interests of the American people first.

I thank the Committee for its attention to our mission and for its ongoing support of USCIS. I welcome your questions and look forward to continued collaboration.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and congratulations on your retirement. We thank you for your service to the nation.