

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Joseph B. Edlow
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
5900 Capital Gateway Dr.
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Dear Secretary Mullin and Director Edlow,

We write to express our deep concerns about the growing backlog of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal applications for hundreds of Coloradans that United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has not yet processed. We urge USCIS to expedite the processing of these applications.

Colorado is home to over 12,000 DACA recipients.¹ They are Americans in every way but their immigration status. Many only know this country as their home, and they contribute to this nation by paying taxes and serving in critical roles, such as police officers, teachers, and nurses. Our constituent services teams hear every day from hardworking Coloradans concerned about the status of their renewal applications and the threat that the ongoing delays pose to their families.

As you know, the DACA program grants two-year, renewable work permits to undocumented adults who were brought to the United States as children. DACA recipients must comply with strict background checks and maintain clean criminal records, and they must re-apply to renew their status every two years. Since its creation fourteen years ago this week, the DACA program has allowed more than 800,000 previously undocumented individuals to remain active, contributing members of their communities without fear of deportation.

Under the Trump administration, USCIS review of DACA applications has slowed to a crawl. Reports show wait times for renewal applications have increased to a median of 70 days between October 2025 and February 2026, up from a median of 15 days in fiscal year 2025.² This leaves DACA recipients in legal limbo and undermines the intent of the DACA program.

The USCIS backlog of DACA renewal requests is hurting many students, health care workers, first responders, law enforcement officers, and wildland firefighters during what is expected to be a severe wildfire season. These DACA recipients are pillars of their communities, and their lives are now on hold while their DACA renewal applications remain pending with USCIS. These delays affect not only DACA recipients themselves, but all Coloradans.

We urge you to expedite all DACA renewal applications without delay, and we request answers to the below questions no later than June 30, 2026:

1. How long is the current average USCIS review period for a DACA renewal application?

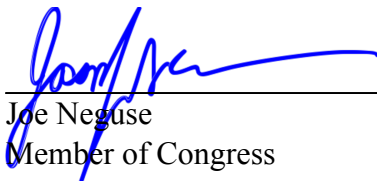
¹ https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/Active_DACA_Recipients_March_FY23_qtr2.pdf

² <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/16/business/daca-processing-delays>


2. What is the scope of the recent delays, and what are the primary drivers? Has anything significant changed in how DACA renewal applications are processed that has contributed to the backlogs or delays?
3. Is there guidance we should provide to constituents who contact our offices about DACA renewal delays?
4. For individuals whose DACA renewal has lapsed due to processing delays, are they at risk of accruing Unlawful Presence (ULP) which may lead to removal, detention, or other enforcement actions?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,




Joe Neguse
Member of Congress




Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator




Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress