



May 25, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 205150

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Letter of Support for Nominee Ur Jaddou for Director of Citizenship and Immigration Services

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), a statewide membership immigrant rights organization based in California with national impact, I write in strong support of Ur Jaddou, President Joe Biden's nominee, to serve as Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which oversees lawful immigration to the United States and administers immigration benefits. A fair, dedicated advocate for equal justice with a deep understanding of immigrant rights, Ms. Jaddou brings a breadth of experience in immigration law and policy. We firmly believe that her leadership will help USCIS overcome the challenges created by the Trump Administration such as the policies and practices that resulted in an unprecedented backlog and financial hardships.

Most recently, Ms. Jaddou was the Director of DHS Watch, a project of the organization, America's Voice, where she scrutinized the Trump Administration policies, many of which failed to adhere to basic principles of good governance, transparency, and accountability. Crucially at a time when the agency is in dire



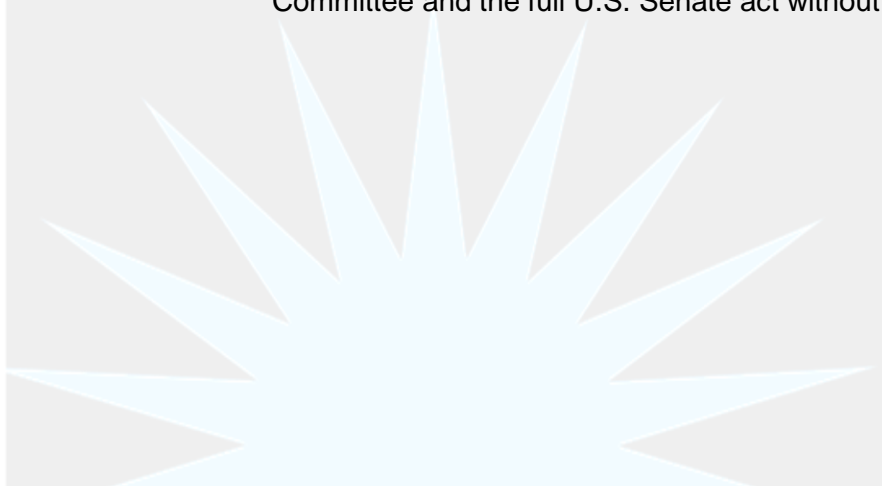
need of a reboot, she also brings extensive knowledge of the USCIS having formerly served as Chief Counsel from July 2014 to January 2017 where she provided legal counsel to the agency and interacted with the DHS General Counsel and other immigration component counsel. Finally, her many years on Capitol Hill, including her role as Chief Counsel to the House Immigration Subcommittee from 2007 to 2011, ideally position her for dealing with the oversight and other functions of Congress.

While President Biden has reversed some of Trump's restrictive immigration policies, the urgency to address existing barriers at USCIS are still there. For example, the green card, visa and naturalization backlogs, with some wait times having reached years. These backlogs hinder millions of Americans the opportunity to access different avenues of legal immigration and immigration services in an accessible and timely manner. Additionally, the recent threat of increased fees, the now rescinded revision of the USCIS test in 2020 and more introduced great uncertainty into the naturalization process. With many policy changes being made and others reverting back, there is a dire need for USCIS to reestablish a culture of trust and transparency among the immigrant community.

The nomination of Ms. Jaddou to lead USCIS is a positive step forward as she is exceptionally qualified for this position. She understands the enormous challenges we face with an outdated immigration system, brings a deep familiarity of the USCIS and a vision that the agency desperately needs after seeing its morale slowly sapped over the course of the last four years.

We are confident that Ms. Jaddou's decades of experience will help to address these challenges and help successfully transform the administration of immigration services. Her track record demonstrates that she will work with all the key stakeholders towards achieving this goal.

It is time for USCIS to once again show that the United States carries the torch of liberty and welcome for immigrant families. Therefore, we ask that this Committee and the full U.S. Senate act without delay towards a swift





CHIRLA
Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights

confirmation of Ur Jaddou as Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). If you have any questions please contact Luz Castro, National Policy Advocate, at lcastro@chirla.org and Carl Bergquist, Policy Counsel, at cbergquist@chirla.org.

Sincerely,

Luz Castro
National Policy Advocate
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

