



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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the National Partnership for New Americans, a national coalition of 43 statewide organizations dedicated to the integration and inclusion of immigrants and refugees, we write to strongly support the confirmation of Ur Jaddou as the Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

USCIS is a federal agency that is in critical need of leadership, especially now as it seeks to implement the laws of the United States, ensure its financial solvency, and implement new forms of relief such as Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuelans, Haitians, and Burmese, all while dealing with the incessant issue of backlogs and processing delays of immigration applications. Ms. Jaddou is particularly adept at identifying the concerns and solutions at USCIS and is the leader needed by the agency at this moment.

Ms. Jaddou brings decades of experience, totalling approximately 20 years in immigration law and policy. Her most recent governmental position was as USCIS' Chief Counsel, where she managed the agency on legal matters, led a staff of approximately 300 attorneys, and coordinated with USCIS and Department of Homeland Security leadership, executive agencies, and the White House. Before then, she served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs. Previous to her leadership positions within the executive branch, she served as Senior Counsel to Representative Zoe Lofgren, among other Congressional offices, and then Chief Counsel for the House Immigration Subcommittee, underscoring the need for coordination and transparency between Congress and USCIS. Her brilliant experience and nuanced, insightful, and comprehensive expertise will make her an effective and visionary Director at USCIS.



NPNA member organizations offer immigration legal services, including assistance and legal representation for applicants for citizenship, permanent residency, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, TPS, and asylum and other humanitarian-based benefits to USCIS, informing them first-hand of the issues faced by USCIS, and, subsequently, immigrants and refugees applying for benefits for which they are eligible. The NPNA network also knows of Ms. Jaddou through her work over the last few years to expand access to citizenship and Congressional advocacy to ensure USCIS stability and prevent mass staff furloughs and a shutdown of agency operations last year.

As USCIS strives to improve its operations while enhancing efficiency and fairness in its adjudication of applications, the NPNA network is ready for leadership by Ms. Jaddou. As the daughter of immigrants and a woman of color, she represents a reflective leadership that our network, communities, and nation as a whole can aspire to.

Ms. Jaddou's decades of experience and expertise make her uniquely suited for confronting and overcoming the challenges at USCIS, establishing transparency between the agency and Congress and the public, and implementing Congressional intent. For these reasons, we strongly urge the swift confirmation of Ms. Jaddou to the Director of USCIS position.

If you have any questions, please contact Diego Iñiguez-López, Policy and Campaigns Manager for NPNA at [diego@partnershipfornewamericans.org](mailto:diego@partnershipfornewamericans.org).

Sincerely,

National Partnership for New Americans