

August 24, 2026

Submitted via www.regulations.gov



Attention:

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

Re: Naturalization Application Fee Adjustments

Since its founding in 1979, Spring Institute has proudly supported the welcoming and integration of new Americans across the Denver metro region. We have always recognized that immigrant Coloradans strengthen our intercultural community, contribute immensely to our economy, and enhance our shared prosperity. Today, the organization engages thousands of newcomers and their family members each year through programs and services including English language education, career pathways support, early childhood education, resource navigation, policy advocacy, and language access.

Spring Institute's participants and clients are working to build stable livelihoods while creating safe, secure, and promising futures for their families in the country and state they now call home. Many are pursuing naturalization or view U.S. citizenship as an important long-term goal. Yet naturalization is already a complicated and costly process, even with expert guidance and supportive resources. We have repeatedly seen how difficult it can be for eligible immigrants to take even the first step toward naturalization, despite their determination and deep commitment to building their lives in the U.S.

For low-income families, the cost of the naturalization process can be a significant barrier. Fee waivers are therefore a crucial tool for ensuring that eligible immigrants are not excluded from citizenship simply because of their income. At a time when the cost of living is placing growing pressure on families throughout Colorado, increasing these fees would make an already challenging process even less accessible.

We strongly urge DHS not to move forward with this proposed rule. Raising naturalization fees by as much as 80%, increasing the cost of appeals, and eliminating fee waivers would place an inappropriate and unacceptable price tag on citizenship. Many immigrants who are already contributing to our communities in countless ways simply cannot absorb these additional costs. Nearly 9 million lawful permanent residents nationwide are currently eligible to naturalize, including approximately 149,000 in Colorado. This proposal would create unnecessary and arbitrary barriers for prospective citizens who can least afford them.

Spring Institute respectfully and urgently requests that DHS withdraw this proposal and preserve fee waivers. Protecting access to citizenship for all eligible immigrants, regardless of income, should be a priority for a country that values civic participation, opportunity, and the tremendous contributions of its immigrant population.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Amanda Bent
Director of Communications & Advocacy
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning