

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 23, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We write today to express our concern about the lack of information provided by the U.S. Department of State on wait times for immigrant visa interviews. We urge you to improve transparency across all U.S. Embassies and Consulates on the number of visa cases in the queue and the average estimated wait times for available interview time slots.

As of August 2022, the number of immigrant visa applicants awaiting appointments at Embassies and Consulates reached 421,668. [\(1\)](#) Once applicants reach this stage in the immigrant visa application process, information becomes scarce, with the U.S. Department of State publishing no data on visa appointment wait times, nor the number of interviews conducted per month or the number of cases in the queue. These wait times vary widely among consulates, leaving applicants in the dark and potentially in a years-long limbo. [\(2\)](#)

Constituents inquiring with our offices about their immigrant visa applications often have unrealistic expectations for processing times due to the lack of public data, and Congressional staff have little access to information to correct this. This lack of transparency hurts our offices' ability to help our constituents and leaves many frustrated as they wait indefinitely for an interview.

While we understand the immigrant visa process is exceedingly backlogged due to the COVID-19 pandemic, delays and extended wait times are very detrimental to applicants, their families, and our workforce. Therefore, we urge the U.S. Department of State to continue its efforts to reduce the backlogs within our immigration system, but in the meantime, to provide the wait time transparency that our constituents deserve.

We appreciate your full and fair consideration of our request and look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress

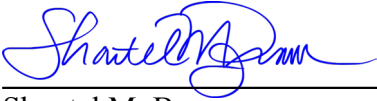


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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

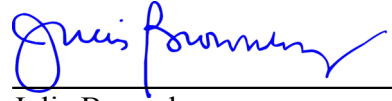
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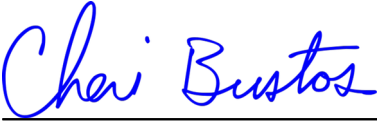
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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

*André Carson*

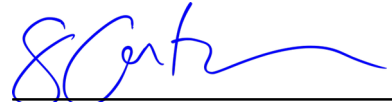
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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



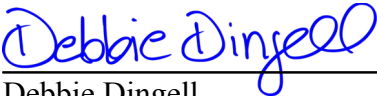
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



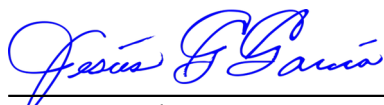
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

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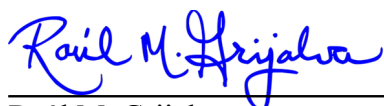
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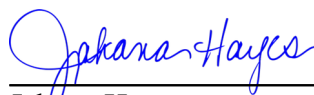
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



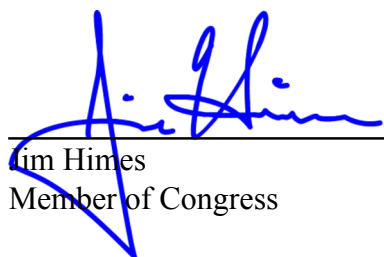
Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



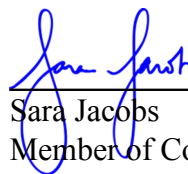
Tim Himes  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

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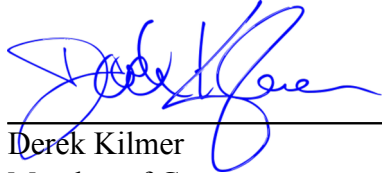
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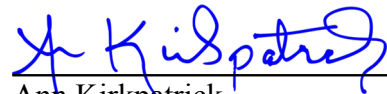
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



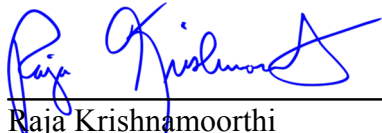
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



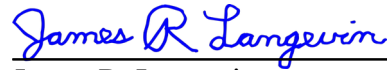
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



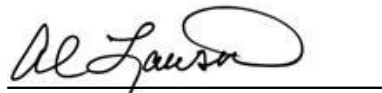
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

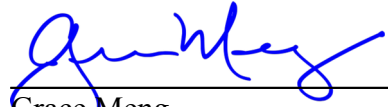
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



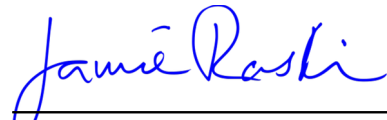
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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



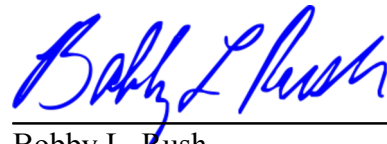
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



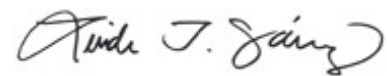
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Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



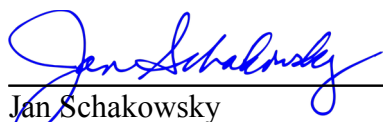
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho  
Sablan  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



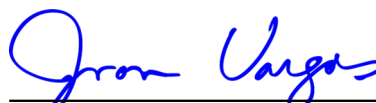
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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress




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Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

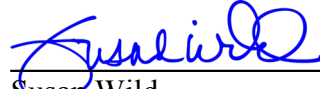
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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



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John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress