

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
GUAM

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
READINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN, INSULAR,
AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, POWER AND OCEANS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE:
2441 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1188
FAX: (202) 226-0341

DISTRICT OFFICE:
120 FATHER DUENAS AVENUE
SUITE 107
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910
(671) 477-4272
FAX: (671) 477-2587

<http://www.house.gov/bordallo>

February 26, 2016

The Honorable Leon Rodriguez
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20529

Dear Director Rodriguez,

I write on behalf of my constituents who are facing increasing rates of denial for renewing H-1 and H-2 visas. I am deeply concerned with these recent developments and the impact they may have on construction contracts to support and sustain the military build-up on Guam as well as the immediate impact they may have on health care services on Guam.

In particular, the sharp increase on the rates of denial of H-1 and H-2 visa renewals pose a significant impact and challenge to the Guam Regional Medical City's (GRMC) ability to provide patient care to the people of Guam. There is a demonstrated and clear shortage of qualified nurses on Guam. The recent denials of H-2B visa renewals for certain individuals at GRMC are concerning and the explanation provided in the denial letter from the USCIS office in Laguna Niguel provides no clear rationale for the denial.

Further, I am concerned that the increased denial rate will ultimately impact construction companies that are working to support military construction projects relating to the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. The Department of Defense anticipates that total military construction spending, exclusive of local construction, will exceed the island's organic capacity in the coming years. It is expected that Guam would need to leverage H-2B visa workers to help keep the construction pace on track to accomplish this strategic endeavor. In fact, this is the reason Congress has kept Guam and CNMI's H-2B visa quota separate from the national quota.

I hope that you can provide greater fidelity on the rationale behind this rash of H-1 and H-2 visa renewal denials. I respectfully request clarification as to whether any regulations or rules were recently changed that may have led to this increase in denial rates. Further, I request additional information on whether processing of H-1 and H-2 visa renewals have been outsourced to a third-party vendor. If nothing has changed, I hope you can provide a very clear rationale for these rejections and discuss options to rectify this matter so that we can avoid adverse impacts to our health care and construction sectors in Guam.

The Honorable Leon Rodriguez
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
February 26, 2016
Page Two of Two

I appreciate your attention to this matter. I make this request in accordance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. Should you have any questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Matthew Herrmann, at matthew.herrmann@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-1188. Your expeditious assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress