

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

November 12, 2015

The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Recent reports have called into question efforts by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to digitize its immigration application forms.¹ In particular, it has been reported that after more than 10 years of planning, and after spending more than \$1 billion, USCIS has made only one immigration application form available online, and still only allows applicants to pay one application fee online.²

As originally envisioned, this project was designed to allow USCIS to replace the paper applications that the agency has traditionally used. It was budgeted to cost \$500 million and scheduled for completion in 2013.³ Current estimates, however, project that the program will cost up to \$3.1 billion and be completed in 2019.⁴

So that the Committee can better understand how the costs have increased so dramatically and the project has fallen so far behind schedule, the Committee requests that your agency provide a briefing for Committee staff no later than noon on November 20, 2015. We request the briefing detail the delays that have prevented your agency from completing this project on schedule, and the reasons why costs have increased so significantly.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at “any time” investigate “any matter” as set forth in House Rule X.

¹ Jerry Markon, *A decade into a project to digitize U.S. immigration forms, just 1 is online*, WASH. POST, Nov. 9, 2015, accessed at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/a-decade-into-a-project-to-digitize-us-immigration-forms-just-1-is-online/2015/11/08/f63360fc-830e-11e5-a7ca-6ab6ec20f839_story.html?wpmm=1&wpisrc=nl_headlines

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

Please contact Art Arthur or Troy Stock of the Majority staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions about this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



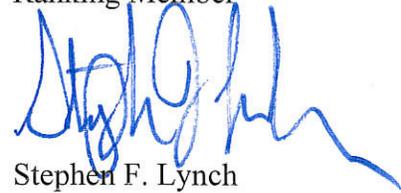
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