



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 10, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW, Mail Stop 0150
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Kenneth T. Cuccinelli
Acting Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Avenue, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20529

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf and Acting Director Cuccinelli:

I write regarding the availability of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) genealogical records to my constituents. USCIS holds records of great value to researchers and historians who seek to document the stories of our nation's development and for professional and personal recreational genealogists looking to learn their family's history.

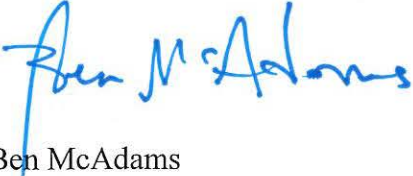
The USCIS Genealogy Program provides researchers access to historical immigration and naturalization records of deceased Americans. Currently, the Genealogy Index Search Request (Form G-1041) and the Genealogy Records Request (Form G-1041 A) require a user fee of \$65, though USCIS has proposed a fee increase for these requests to \$240 and \$385, respectively (Docket ID: USCIS-2019-0010). I have heard from many constituents concerned about their ability to continue their professional or personal genealogical research.

I recognize that USCIS user fees fund important government operations, and the agency, like all government entities, must be careful and responsible stewards of taxpayer resources. I do, however, share many of my constituents' concerns that valuable historical records may go unreviewed, unshared, or unseen by those who seek to contribute to the study and story of our nation's history. Utahns are passionate about telling and learning from our nation's and families' shared history, and, as a state founded by people seeking refuge, Utahns feel a strong connection to their family history as part of our nation's history.

I therefore request that the Department and USCIS investigate options to widen the availability of these records at a responsible cost to both researchers and taxpayers. Specifically, I request that the agency investigate partnerships with other organizations, including private sector partners, that could lower bureaucratic burdens to accessing this information, including those that may provide record digitization services at no cost to taxpayers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you on this topic. Please feel welcome to contact me at my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-3011 if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben McAdams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" and last name "McAdams" clearly legible.

Ben McAdams
Member of Congress



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

February 4, 2020

The Honorable Ben McAdams
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McAdams:

Thank you for your January 10, 2020 letter regarding U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) proposed fee schedule for the Genealogy Program.

Your letter will be added to the rulemaking docket as a public comment and will be carefully considered.

Thank you again for your letter. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew V. Bonic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Andrew V. Bonic
Acting Chief
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs