Field PAOs,

Please see the letter below from the Massachusetts Attorney General.

All of the following states are tied into this as well: California, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia.

Please refer any related inquiries to DHS.

Jim

From: Grenier, Paula M  
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 11:47 AM  
To: McKinney, James R (Jim); Langston, Robert C (Carter)  
Subject: FW: immigration news - 11am embargo  
Importance: High

Jim and Carter,

Just a heads up that I just referred this reporter to DHS OPA for this inquiry. I spoke with the local ICE PAO who is also referring to DHS and we are also coordinating with local CBP on this. The FOIA was submitted by the Mass. AG and enjoined by 10 other Attorneys General across the U.S. You may want to alert the other PAOs that they may be receiving inquiries as well. If you have any further guidance for me, please let me know.

Best,
Paula

Paula Grenier  
Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)  
Department of Homeland Security

paula.m.grenier@uscis.dhs.gov  
617-565-9410 (office)  
Twitter: @USCISmediaBOS
Hi Paula,

How are you?
We are posting a story about this request by the Massachusetts AG and 10 other AG offices across the country.
Could you please respond so we can include any comment from your office?
Specifically, the AGs are accusing federal officials of keeping the information they seek away from the public and that is why they say they have taken this action. Attached is the FOIA request that has been sent.

Thanks,
Maria Cramer
Boston Globe

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2017

MEDIA CONTACT:

Emily Snyder

(617) 727-2543

AG HEALEY ISSUES FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST ABOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND ENFORCEMENT

Leads Coalition of 10 Attorneys General in Demanding Documents from Trump Administration

BOSTON – Attorney General Maura Healey today led a coalition of 10 attorneys general in demanding that the Trump Administration turn over documents and other information relating to the detention and deportation of immigrants.

The attorneys general issued Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), seeking details regarding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), arrests and/or detentions of individuals at sensitive locations, including courthouses and jobsites, and ICE or CBP detainer requests and databases.
"The Trump Administration has stoked fear across the country through its Executive Orders targeting immigrant communities, and they cannot continue to operate in the dark," AG Healey said. “Our states, cities, and local law enforcement need real information about how federal immigration policies are being enforced in our communities in order to serve the public and keep people safe.”

In the request, the attorneys general reference local and national media reports of the deportation of individuals approved for DACA, individuals meeting with federal immigration officials to discuss their status, and even U.S. citizens.

The attorneys general are seeking information from federal agencies about the detention and deportation of individuals approved for DACA and immigration enforcement at sensitive locations – which include hospitals, courthouses and school grounds. Some of the specific information the attorneys general have requested include information about the detention or deportation of any individual previously granted approval or extension of DACA, data about detainers requests issued by ICE or CBP, memos related to ICE or CBP-designated sensitive locations, and information about arrests and/or detentions within 100 feet of a courthouse.

Earlier this year, AG Healey issued guidance to health care providers and local public school districts in Massachusetts following inquiries from health care providers and public school officials about the impact of federal immigration policies and executive orders on patients and students. This guidance followed an advisory the AG’s Office also sent this year reminding local public school districts of their obligation under state and federal law to provide all students with equal access to primary and secondary education, irrespective of citizenship or immigration status.

Led by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, the other members of the coalition seeking this information include the attorneys general of California, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia.

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Maria Cramer  
Boston Globe crime reporter  
w: 617.929.3169
Good morning gentlemen! Just a heads up that I just referred Boston Globe reporter Akilah Johnson to ICE for info regarding the arrest of [REDACTED] am including Khaalid as I saw him quoted today in the Irish Times about it....

Paula Grenier
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
Department of Homeland Security

Twitter: @USCISmediaBOS
In a high profile case today, a federal judge in Georgia reinstated both DACA and work authorization to...

The following is our approved statement for media inquiries: “USCIS is reviewing the court’s order and will be prepared to make a statement following a legal review of the order.”

Let me know if you have any questions, thanks,
Steve

Steve Blando
Public Affairs Officer
Office of Communications
Media Relations Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security

(office) (cell) (b)(6)
Hi Elly:

You may attribute the following to USCIS officials or say
Pamela Wilson, USCIS Public Affairs Officer in Atlanta provided an official statement

- **USCIS Statement:**

  A termination of DACA and any associated employment authorization granted during the period of deferred action can occur if a recipient commits a disqualifying action following a grant of DACA. A disqualifying action would include any instance that would have prevented a requestor from receiving deferred action, had it occurred prior to the DACA grant.

  These include:
  - Conviction for a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, or three or more misdemeanors.
  - The individual poses a threat to public safety or national security. Indicators of such threat include, but are not limited to, gang membership, participation in criminal activities, or participation in activities that threaten the United States.
  - Fraud found to have been committed in the process of seeking deferral of removal under DACA.

Travel outside the United States on or after Aug. 15, 2012, without first receiving advance parole also automatically terminates deferred action under DACA.

Additionally, DACA is an exercise of prosecutorial discretion and deferred action may be terminated at any time, with or without the issuance of a Notice of Intent to Terminate, at DHS’s discretion.
I haven’t heard back from Steve yet at HQ. Let me know if you have! Thanks so much,

Elly Yu | Reporter

(b)(6)

From: Wilson, Pamela G [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 12:49 PM
To: Elly Yu <>
Subject: RE: WABE Inquiry

Hi Elle:

By law we are not permitted to discuss individual cases. But here is information on how criminal conviction affects DACA

You may call me if you want a quote about the policy. (b)(6)

Pamela Wilson
Public Affairs Officer
Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
Department of Homeland Security (b)(6)

Twitter @USCISMediaGA

From: Elly Yu [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 12:44 PM
To: Wilson, Pamela G
Subject: WABE Inquiry:

Hi Pamela,

Hope this email finds you well. I’m trying to find out more about the immigration case of When can I best reach you?

Elly Yu | Reporter
From: Keaton Thomas <krthomas@katu.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:43 PM
To: USCIS.Media
Subject: KATU-TV: DACA Participant

Hello,

I am a reporter with KATU news. I am working on a story today about a DACA participant who was detained by ICE Sunday morning. (b)(6)

I am wondering if someone can tell me under what circumstances someone could lose DACA eligibility?

My deadline is 3pm P.S.T today.

Thank you,
Keaton

-- Keaton Thomas
Reporter, KATU News
Cell: (b)(6)
Hi Maria. I am referring you to the DHS Office of Public Affairs for your inquiry. You can reach them via phone: 202-282-8010 or via email at medainquiry@hq.dhs.gov.
Thank you,
Paula

Paula Grenier
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
Department of Homeland Security
Twitter: @USCISmediaBOS

Hi Paula,

How are you?
We are posting a story about this request by the Massachusetts AG and 10 other AG offices across the country.
Could you please respond so we can include any comment from your office?
Specifically, the AGs are accusing federal officials of keeping the information they seek away from the public and that is why they say they have taken this action. Attached is the FOIA request that has been sent.
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Maria Cramer
Boston Globe
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2017

MEDIA CONTACT:

Emily Snyder
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“The Trump Administration has stoked fear across the country through its Executive Orders targeting immigrant communities, and they cannot continue to operate in the dark,” AG Healey said. “Our states, cities, and local law enforcement need real information about how federal immigration policies are being enforced in our communities in order to serve the public and keep people safe.”

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The attorneys general are seeking information from federal agencies about the detention and deportation of individuals approved for DACA and immigration enforcement at sensitive locations – which include hospitals, courthouses and school grounds. Some of the specific information the attorneys general have requested include information about the detention or deportation of any individual previously granted approval or extension of DACA, data about detainers requests issued by ICE or CBP, memos related to ICE or CBP-designated sensitive locations, and information about arrests and/or detentions within 100 feet of a courthouse.

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Led by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, the other members of the coalition seeking this information include the attorneys general of California, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia.

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--

Maria Cramer
Boston Globe crime reporter

(b)(6)
Shirk, Georgette L

From: Akiolah Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 9:45 AM
To: Grenier, Paula M
Subject: Re: Question

Thanks
Akiolah Johnson
Boston Globe
(Sent from my iPhone)

On Jun 20, 2017, at 10:17 AM, "Grenier, Paula M" wrote:

The ICE public affairs officer who covers this area is Shawn Neudauer, his phone is and email is . Here is a link to their website with the main press line/email contact info as well as a list of all their public affairs officers: https://www.ice.gov/contact/media-inquiries
I hope you find this helpful.
Best,
Paula

Paula Grenier
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
Department of Homeland Security

Twitter: @USCISmediaBOS

From: Akiolah Johnson (mailto:)
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:06 AM
To: Grenier, Paula M
Subject: Re: Question

Thanks, Paula. Can you provide the contact info for the appropriate person?

Akiolah Johnson
Boston Globe
(Sent from my iPhone)

On Jun 20, 2017, at 10:00 AM, "Grenier, Paula M" wrote:

Hi Akiolah. You would need to reach out to ICE for your inquiry. Do you need their contact info, or do you have it?

Paula Grenier
Hi, Paula.

I saw in the Irish Times that John Cunningham, 38, the former chairman of the Boston Northeast GAA, was arrested at his home in the city last Friday by immigration officials. Is there away to confirm this even on background? The story quotes immigration officials. Thanks!

Akilah Johnson
Boston Globe
(Sent from my iPhone)
Thanks!

Tim Counts
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Twitter: @USCISMediaMN

For your awareness.

Anita Rios Moore
Public Affairs Officer
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

@USCISMediaVT

Correct.

As always, Anita, I thank you for your very helpful response.

I take the point that any and all statements would have to come from ICE of the immigration court.

Susan
On Jun 13, 2017, at 4:18 PM, Moore, Anita R wrote:

Susan,

Pardon my delay in responding to you. USCIS is not able to provide an interview due to staffing availability. Regarding the various reasons for deportation, that would have to be addressed by ICE or the immigration court as USCIS does not make such determinations.

Can someone who has applied for a U-visa not receive it, even if the individual has, for instance, a minor traffic record? Petitioners must meet all qualifications. Link for qualifications here. If they are barred because they have any of the grounds of inadmissibility, they must apply for a waiver of those grounds.

And, if someone already has a U-visa and is arrested, for instance, for DUI, would that person lose the visa and be deported? This would have to be addressed by ICE or the immigration court as USCIS does not make such determinations. (www.ICE.gov and www.justice.gov/eoir).

In other words, which will carry more weight — the U-visa or the Administration’s very strong focus on deporting undocumented immigrants? This would have to be addressed by ICE or the immigration court. (www.ICE.gov and www.justice.gov/eoir).

I do understand that a visa is documentation — but would that particular documentation be sufficient to prevent any kind of deportation order? Regarding deportation after a visa is granted is a matter to be taken to ICE or immigration court. Cancellation of ones benefit is determined by immigration judge and not USCIS.

Anita Rios Moore
Public Affairs Officer
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office: | Mobile:

@USCISMediaVT

----Original Message----
From: Susan Paisner [mailto: ]
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 3:46 PM
To: Moore, Anita R
Subject: Re: Seeking to interview a DHS official

Anita —

I’m working on a flexible deadline. I was hoping to conduct all my interviews by the end of this week, but given that it’s a shortened week, by mid-week next week.

Does that give you enough time to set up an interview?

And I didn’t contact your back-up because I have this flexibility in writing the story — so I figured I’d wait until you returned (!!).

I appreciate your apology — but it’s not necessary.

Susan

> On May 30, 2017, at 3:43 PM, Moore, Anita R < wrote:
> Susan,
> Apologies, I was on vacation last week and just now seeing this query. I checked with my back-up and it does not appear you sent this to her. What is your deadline?
> Anita
> Anita Rios Moore
> Public Affairs Officer
> Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
> Office: @USCISMediaVT
> ----Original Message-----
> From: Susan Paisner [mailto:]
> Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 4:28 PM
> To: Moore, Anita R
> Subject: Seeking to interview a DHS official
> Hi Anita.
> You helped me out the other day when I was looking for statistics about U-visas.
> Now I’m writing a story about these visas, and I was hoping I would be able to
interview someone at DHS about them.
>
> My main questions are:
>
> Can someone who has applied for a U-visa not receive it, even if the individual has,
for instance, a minor traffic record?
>
> And, if someone already has a U-visa and is arrested, for instance, for DUI, would that
person lose the visa and be deported?
>
> In other words, which will carry more weight — the U-visa or the Administration’s
very strong focus on deporting undocumented immigrants?
>
> I do understand that a visa IS documentation — but would that particular
documentation be sufficient to prevent any kind of deportation order?
>
> This interview won’t take long — maybe 20 minutes.
>
> The story will be for whowhatwhy.org — and investigative reporting website.
>
> Thank you for your attention — and I look forward to hearing back from you.
>
> Susan

> Susan R. Paisner

> Silver Spring, MD

> [b][/b]
Yes, that statement is good.

In case media shows and asks about enforcement, I do plan to bridge to ceremony, but is below statement still okay should they ask about ICE arrests at USCIS offices?

There’s no arrest happening but statement can work with a few scenarios/questions
“IT is the policy and practice of USCIS to fully cooperate with law enforcement partners in the performance of their duties. I must refer you to [NAME OF AGENCY] for additional details.”

Anita Rios Moore  
Public Affairs Officer  
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office: ____________________ Mobile: ____________________
(b)(6)
@USCISMediaVT

If that is what they would like to do, yes – I would say that it no longer involves OCOMM.

Thanks,

Jim

Hi Jim,

Thank you for sharing this information. I think the OP&S team was trying to find out what kind of guidance the field operates with in these circumstances and perhaps they need to coordinate work on this issue with FOD. I’ll share your response with them.
Best regards,
Amany

From: McKinney, James R (Jim)
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 9:55 AM
To: Grenier, Paula M; Moore, Anita R; Ezeldin, Amany S; Counts, Timothy J (Tim)
Subject: RE: ICE arrests at USCIS Field Offices

Good morning,

As Paula mentioned, we have not created an entire PAG, but do have talking points that we are using on
the issue.

I can provide what we are using, but I can’t give direction on your use of them, and would refer you to
any CSPE policy on using media talking points.

“It is the policy and practice of USCIS to fully cooperate with law enforcement partners in the
performance of their duties. I must refer you to [NAME OF AGENCY] for additional details.”

If the arrest is in relation to an ongoing case, which it will be, and you are pressed for if it is a new process
- you may use the following if cleared through your local ICE PAO as well:

“It is the standard practice of USCIS to notify ICE if we have individuals at our offices who have warrants of
deporation or are in proceedings.”

Thanks,

Jim

Jim McKinney
Field Liaison/Supervisory Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
Department of Homeland Security
Twitter: @USCISMediaVA

From: Grenier, Paula M
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 9:40 AM
To: Moore, Anita R; Ezeldin, Amany S; Counts, Timothy J (Tim)
Cc: McKinney, James R (Jim)
Subject: RE: ICE arrests at USCIS Field Offices

Good morning. There is not a PAG as referenced below that I am aware of for this specific issue. We
dealt with this as a local inquiry. I am adding the media division field liaison, Jim McKinney, to the thread
for any further input.
Sincerely,
Paula
Paula Grenier  
Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)  
Department of Homeland Security  
(b)(6)  
Twitter: @USCISmediaBOS

From: Moore, Anita R  
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 9:15 AM  
To: Ezeldin, Amany S; Counts, Timothy J (Tim); Grenier, Paula M  
Subject: RE: ICE arrests at USCIS Field Offices

That is Paula’s area.

I am adding her to the distribution. This is high on her radar and pretty much all she has been dealing with for last week or so. She is in close contact with her DD and FOD regarding this matter, as well.

Anita Rios Moore  
Public Affairs Officer  
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
(b)(6)  
@USCISMediaVT

From: Ezeldin, Amany S  
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 9:12 AM  
To: Counts, Timothy J (Tim); Moore, Anita R  
Subject: FW: ICE arrests at USCIS Field Offices

Good morning Anita and Tim  
Is there a particular PAO contact for the issue outlined below - ICE enforcement actions at USCIS offices? This is for someone at OP&S.

Thanks  
Amany

From: Kaura, Nidhi  
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 5:29:12 PM  
To: Ezeldin, Amany S  
Cc: Saucier, Hillary W  
Subject: RE: ICE arrests at USCIS Field Offices

Thanks so much Amany. Do you have a particular contact at OCOMM Public Affairs that you would recommend starting with? This has received national coverage now - I hope we can find some internal consistency moving forward.
From: Ezeldin, Amany S  
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 5:56 PM  
To: Kaura, Nidhi  
Cc: Saucier, Hillary W  
Subject: RE: ICE arrests at USCIS Field Offices

Hi Nidhi,

Thanks for reaching out on this. I had heard about this issue through contacts at CRCL, actually, but haven’t heard much internally at USCIS. I have shared your email with my supervisor though and she is going to see if anyone is already working on getting ahead of this issue. You may also consider reaching out to OCOMM Public Affairs, as they may be getting media inquiries and already have a cleared PAG (Public Affairs Guidance) on this.

I’ll be in touch.

Thanks,

Amany

From: Kaura, Nidhi  
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 1:40 PM  
To: Ezeldin, Amany S  
Cc: Saucier, Hillary W  
Subject: ICE arrests at USCIS Field Offices

Hi Amany,

There has been some recent media attention re: 5 arrests that took place at a USCIS Field Office when the individuals showed up for interviews. It appears that each of these individuals had final orders of removal, 3 of the 5 had traffic violations, while 2 had no criminal history. At this point, I don’t have any specifics (e.g. whether there were active warrants in addition to the outstanding removal orders), but I reached out to FOD to see if they could learn more re: these specifics and potential consistency in field referral policies. I’m including the coverage I’ve seen in the daily USCIS Briefings below.

I’m not sure if this is something CSPED is already attuned to, but I wanted to touch base and see if you had heard about this, or had any insight as to whether this may be happening more broadly? Of course, with ICE’s priority list expanded, these types of arrests are likely to become more commonplace.

Thanks,

Nidhi

**ICE Arrests Five Heading To Scheduled USCIS Appointments.**

*WBUR-FM* Boston (3/30, Dooling) reports that five individuals in Lawrence, Massachusetts were arrested Wednesday when they showed up for scheduled appointments at USCIS. While ICE had orders to detain all give, the article confirms that at least three of those individuals were in the process of becoming legal permanent residents. One of those individuals is a Brazilian woman married to a US citizen who was previously deported. Her lawyer Brian Doyle noted that they knew there was a chance she would be arrested.

**Arrests Of Immigrants At USCIS Mark “Dramatic Shift” In Policy For ICE.**
The *North Andover (MA) Eagle Tribune* (4/1, Eddings) reports that Massachusetts man Leandro Arriaga was arrested by ICE officers as he and his wife, Katherine, were finishing interviews at the USCIS office in Lawrence on Wednesday. The Tribune says the interview was "a first step in the process needed to gain legal residency status for Leandro" and that his marriage was deemed "valid." Despite being told that his Green Card application would advance, Arriaga was taken by federal immigration agents, who were waiting for him.

**WBUR-FM Boston** (4/2, Dooling) says that "Arriaga is a construction worker, a property owner and the father of four children" who has been living in the US without authorization for 16 years. This, the piece notes, is "what ultimately got him arrested last week by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials."

Arriaga’s lawyer knew the USCIS meeting would be "a risk," given that Arriaga "did have an order of deportation out against him," *The Guardian (UK)* (4/1, Zalkind) reports. The piece says, however, the lawyer had never had a "client detained at a US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) meeting before." *The Guardian* reports Arriaga’s arrest, along with that of at least three others in the state while similarly applying for green cards, "marks a dramatic shift in immigration policy, say attorneys and experts."

Five people in total were arrested by ICE on Wednesday "when they arrived at their scheduled appointments at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office in Lawrence, Massachusetts," *Teen Vogue* (4/1, De Elizabeth) reports. According to Brian Doyle, the lawyer for one of those arrested, "ICE officials have the authority to do this, but it’s not typical, as these people were taking the proper legal steps towards becoming citizens."

The *Boston Globe* (3/31, Valencia) similarly referred to this as a "newly aggressive approach" by federal immigration authorities, which has "alarmed immigrant advocates," who also say it "could have a chilling effect on immigrants who are taking steps to obtain lawful residency." Chair of the New England chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association Susan Church said, "They respond to an interview that was scheduled by the government, they listen to the government, show up when they’re supposed to, and they’re arrested."

The arrests "prompted a protest march through downtown Lawrence Friday afternoon," the *North Andover (MA) Eagle Tribune* (3/31, Tennant) also reported. Police Chief James Fitzpatrick is quoted as saying the protest drew about 100 people, who shouted "Si se puede!" ("Yes we can!"). The Tribune noted "many of the marchers carried signs with pro-immigrant messages such as ‘Somos todos inmigrantes’ (We are all immigrants) and ‘Immigrants are welcome.’"

**Fusion** (3/31, Krueger) provided similar coverage.

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Nidhi Kaura  
Family Immigration & Victim Protection Division | Office of Policy and Strategy  
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) | Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
Office: | Email:   

This email, along with any attachments, is intended solely for the use of the addressee(s) and may contain information that is sensitive or protected by applicable law. Unauthorized use or dissemination of this email and any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the send and delete or destroy all copies. Thank you.
Field PAOs,

Please see the letter below from the Massachusetts Attorney General.

All of the following states are tied into this as well: California, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia.

Please refer any related inquiries to DHS.

Jim

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Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 11:47 AM  
To: McKinney, James R (Jim); Langston, Robert C (Carter)  
Subject: FW: immigration news - 11am embargo  
Importance: High

Jim and Carter,

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Best,
Paula

Paula Grenier  
Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)  
Department of Homeland Security

Twitter: @USCISmediaBOS

From: Cramer, Maria  
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 11:18 AM  

To: Grenier, Paula M  
Subject: Fwd: immigration news - 11am embargo

Hi Paula,

How are you?  
We are posting a story about this request by the Massachusetts AG and 10 other AG offices across the country. Could you please respond so we can include any comment from your office? Specifically, the AGs are accusing federal officials of keeping the information they seek away from the public and that is why they say they have taken this action. Attached is the FOIA request that has been sent.

Thanks.
Maria Cramer
Boston Globe

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

MAURA HEALEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2017

MEDIA CONTACT:
Emily Snyder
(617) 727-2543

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“The Trump Administration has stoked fear across the country through its Executive Orders targeting immigrant communities, and they cannot continue to operate in the dark,” AG Healey said. “Our states, cities, and local law enforcement need real information about how federal immigration policies are being enforced in our communities in order to serve the public and keep people safe.”
In the request, the attorneys general reference local and national media reports of the deportation of individuals approved for DACA, individuals meeting with federal immigration officials to discuss their status, and even U.S. citizens.

The attorneys general are seeking information from federal agencies about the detention and deportation of individuals approved for DACA and immigration enforcement at sensitive locations – which include hospitals, courthouses and school grounds. Some of the specific information the attorneys general have requested include information about the detention or deportation of any individual previously granted approval or extension of DACA, data about detainers requests issued by ICE or CBP, memos related to ICE or CBP-designated sensitive locations, and information about arrests and/or detentions within 100 feet of a courthouse.

Earlier this year, AG Healey issued guidance to health care providers and local public school districts in Massachusetts following inquiries from health care providers and public school officials about the impact of federal immigration policies and executive orders on patients and students. This guidance followed an advisory the AG’s Office also sent this year reminding local public school districts of their obligation under state and federal law to provide all students with equal access to primary and secondary education, irrespective of citizenship or immigration status.

Led by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, the other members of the coalition seeking this information include the attorneys general of California, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia.

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Maria Cramer
Boston Globe crime reporter

(b)(6)
TOOLS AND RESOURCES

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Immigration and Citizenship Data

USCIS receives and adjudicates approximately 6 million petitions and applications annually from individuals and employers. These petitions and applications typically allow foreign nationals to stay in United States as lawful permanent residents (LPR) or immigrants, to stay temporarily to work as nonimmigrants for some other purpose, or to obtain U.S. citizenship.

These reports generally provide summary data on the number of applications or petitions received, approved, denied and pending. In addition, certain tables list the USCIS office responsible for the adjudication. For information on the number and characteristics of persons granted LPR and citizenship status, please refer to data and reports published by the DHS Office of Immigration Statistics at http://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics. Additionally, see the Electronic Reading Room for frequently requested statistics.

The information on this page is organized based on the benefits provided to individuals:

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
Immigration and Citizenship Data

» Family Based
» Employment Based
» Humanitarian
» Citizenship and Naturalization
» Frequently Requested Statistics
» Forms
» Archives

Find this page at: www.uscis.gov/data

Other USCIS Links
- USCIS Processing Time Information

Last Reviewed/Updated: 09/27/2017
Immigration and Citizenship Data

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Reports & Studies

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Forms Data

- Alien Relative (Form I-130 Petition)
- Adjustment of Status (Form I-485 Application)
- H-2A Nonimmigrant Worker (Form I-129 Petition)
- L-1B Nonimmigrant Worker (Form I-129 Petition)
- Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur (Form I-526)
- Petition by Entrepreneur to Remove Conditions (Form I-829)

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For customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind or have speech disabilities which require accommodation:

TTY / ASCII: 800-877-8339, Voice: 866-377-8642
Video Relay Service (VRS): 877-709-5798
The Intercept.com – Reporter Ryan Devereaux requested comment for a story concerning USCIS asylum officers being sent to ICE detention centers in Arizona to support the Executive Order on Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvement. Provided cleared statement. Publication date – Feb. 8.

Jeff

Jeff Carter
Acting Deputy Chief, Office of Communications
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Please visit www.uscis.gov for news and information.

Arwen FitzGerald
Public Affairs Officer – Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Dallas, Texas
Office: | Mobile: 
@USCISMediaTX

USCIS - USCIS.gov | Facebook: /USCIS | Twitter:@USCIS | Instagram: @USCIS
See my comments/questions in red (I tried using green, but it was too hard to read):

I am seeking data, ideally in the form of an electronic Excel spreadsheet, on the number of U-visa applications submitted by Illinois crime victims each month between January 1-April 30, 2017 and the same monthly tally between January 1-April 30, 2016. If USCIS has a breakdown by city or county, that would be even more helpful. Attached you will find U visa data by state for FY 2016. This data set is not pulled on a regular basis and this is the first time we've received it by state. Thus, no data by state for both the 2017 time frames you requested. You can access our national information here. As you'll see, this data is for FY2017 through quarter one (ending Dec. 2016).

I'm also seeking confirmation that the national cap on U-visas is still 10,000 a year. The statutory limit on the number of U visas that may be granted to principal petitioners each year is 10,000.

Lastly, how long is the estimated wait for a U-visa and does being on that waiting list guarantee a victim will not be deported? You can find processing times for U Visas here. This report is as of Feb 2017. At that time, USCIS was working on visas received on or after June 9, 2014.

Individuals with U petitions that are approvable but for the cap will be placed on a waiting list (deferred action) for when visas become available*. Although being placed on a waiting list or deferred action does not confer a lawful immigration status, an individual’s period of stay is authorized by the Department of Homeland Security while their deferred action is in effect and, for admissibility purposes, are considered to be lawfully present in the United States during that time. CBP or ICE should exercise their discretion on a case-by-case basis to prevent qualifying individuals from being apprehended, placed into removal proceedings, or removed. Ultimately, ICE and the immigration courts make the final determination.

*It should be noted that all eligibility requirements must continue to be met at the time of U visa petition approval when a U visa becomes available.
Tim Counts  
Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

From: Moore, Anita R  
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 12:24 PM  
To: Counts, Timothy J (Tim)  
Subject: RE: Chicago Tribune Inquiry

Tim

What do you think of the response below regarding deferred action and deportation question?. I borrowed the language from the DACA Q&A web page.

From: Brachea, Manya A  
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 3:16 PM  
To: Cabrera, Mary A (Marilu)  
Subject: Chicago Tribune Inquiry

Marilu:

I help cover immigration and refugee issues for the Tribune.

I am seeking data, ideally in the form of an electronic Excel spreadsheet, on the number of U-visa applications submitted by Illinois crime victims each month between January 1-April 30, 2017 and the same monthly tally between January 1-April 30, 2016. If USCIS has a breakdown by city or county, that would be even more helpful.
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*It should be noted that all eligibility requirements must continue to be met at the time of U visa petition approval when a U visa becomes available.

Please call me at the number below if you need any clarification.

Many thanks,

Manya Brachear Pashman
Chicago Tribune Religion Reporter

Facebook | Twitter
Instagram | LinkedIn
That would be very helpful, Anita – thanks!

Steve

Steve Blando
Public Affairs Officer
Office of Communications
Media Relations Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security

I’ve not had any, but can pull some clips off twitter for you.

Anita Rios Moore
Public Affairs Officer
Office of Communications | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

From: Moore, Anita R
Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2016 11:50 AM
To: Blando, Steve E
Subject: RE: DACA renewal delay stories
From: Blando, Steve E
Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2016 11:47 AM
To: Ferreira, Joanne M; Cabrera, Marilu; Cannon, Debbie D; Carter, Jeffrey T (Jeff); Consaul, Arwen E; Cosgrove, Daniel J; Counts, Ti