

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 2015

Mr. Elio C. Aponte
Miami, Florida

Dear Elio:

Thank you for writing. The United States is a nation of immigrants who strive to achieve the American dream. However, this country's immigration system has been broken for a very long time, and too often it has an unfair and burdensome impact on the individuals it was meant to assist. Letters like yours underscore the hardships created by this system, and they show we must do more to fix it.

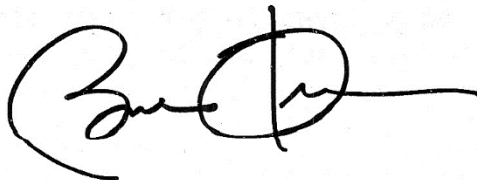
People shouldn't have to worry about spending years stuck in line or separated from loved ones, and law-abiding families shouldn't have to live in constant fear of being torn apart. America didn't raise the Statue of Liberty with her back to the world—we did it with her light shining as a beacon to the world, because we were strangers once, too.

No matter who we were or where we came from—whether we fled famine, war, or persecution; whether we had the right documents or particular skills; whether we were wealthy or poor—we shared the hope that America would be the place where we could finally build a better life for ourselves, our children, and future generations. Everyone deserves that opportunity, and I want you to know I am going to keep fighting for people like you.

To learn more about the steps I am taking to help bring relief to those suffering from the consequences of a broken immigration system, visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/Immigration-Action. To contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or get information about a current USCIS case, visit www.USCIS.gov or call 1-800-375-5283. For problems with a USCIS application or petition, you can also contact the USCIS Ombudsman at www.DHS.gov/Case-Assistance. For information on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, visit www.ICE.gov or call 1-888-351-4024. For help with visa processing, eligibility, waivers, and other inquiries, visit www.USVisas.State.gov.

Military families can call 1-877-247-4645 for help with immigration-related questions. Information on jobs, child care, health benefits, housing assistance, and other public resources available to those in need can be found at 1-800-FED-INFO or www.USA.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style.