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Mr. Joseph B. Edlow
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
5900 Capital Gateway Drive
Camp Springs, MD 20588

November 14, 2025

Dear Director Edlow,

I am reaching out today after receiving notification from the New York City Field Office that there will be no more naturalization ceremonies in Rockland and Westchester Counties in New York. I urge you to immediately reverse this decision.

This policy change is deeply concerning for new citizens and their families in Rockland and Westchester. Should this change move forward, these new Americans would be forced to travel into New York City to take their Naturalization Oath. The trip there and back would take multiple hours as well as cost these folks money due to bridge and road tolls as well as gasoline.

I have attended many naturalization ceremonies during my time in public office. These ceremonies are emotional and one of the most patriotic expressions I've seen in our public systems. The individuals participating truly believe in the American Dream, and they have waited their whole lives to become a citizen of our great nation. We owe it to these new Americans not to pull the rug out from under them.

My wife is an immigrant - one of the happiest days of our lives is when she attended a Naturalization Ceremony and became an American citizen. Stealing that same joy from other to-be-citizens is wrong, plain and simple.

I am committed to working with you to reverse this decision and ensure Naturalization Ceremonies can once again take place in Rockland and Westchester Counties. I urge you to reverse this decision. I look forward to hearing back.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael V. Lawler".

Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress