ECAASU Opposes Immigration and Naturalization Fee Hikes Proposal

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU) is in deep opposition to the proposed increases to immigration and naturalization benefit request fees.

The proposed fee hikes would present unnecessary hardship for migrants seeking a better life in the United States, and would leave low-income and asylum-seekers particularly vulnerable. In addition, the fee increase will be used to fund US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which would significantly increase policing, enforcement, and punishment of migrants. ICE continues to harm communities through severe human rights violations within detention centers and at the border, and using immigration application fees to fund these activities is immoral.

This proposal reflects the Trump Administration's anti-immigrant rhetoric and their broader goal of keeping Black and brown migrants out of this country. Alongside the public charge rule change, the Migrant Protection Protocols, and ever-lowering limits on refugee acceptances, the US is refusing to take responsibility for the harm done by its intervention in other countries, let alone taking the leadership role it purports when it ahistorically calls itself a “nation of immigrants.” At a time when we should be increasing our support for the most vulnerable of migrant populations, the US is choosing to attack immigrant rights instead.

The proposed changes to the benefit fee schedule creates an additional financial burden for immigrant communities and vulnerable individuals that may otherwise be unable to afford the new application fees. We strongly urge USCIS to reconsider the proposed rule.

Read our full comment and analysis submitted to DHS here.

Individuals and organizations can submit their own comments until December 16. Be sure to submit yours here.

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Run solely by volunteers, The East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to inspire, educate, and empower those interested in Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) issues.