

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

SVITLANA DOE, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 1:25-cv-10495-IT

KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity
as Secretary of Homeland Security;
et. al,

Defendants.

DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE TO ORDER

In response to the Court's June 16, 2025 Order (ECF No. 127; *see also* ECF No. 131), Defendants submit the attached Declaration of Kika Scott, Acting Deputy Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Date: June 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

BRETT A. SHUMATE
Assistant Attorney General

DREW C. ENSIGN
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

BRIAN C. WARD
Acting Assistant Director

/s/ Katherine J. Shinnars
KATHERINE J. SHINNERS
Senior Litigation Counsel

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Immigration Litigation
District Court Section
P.O. Box 868, Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044
Tel.: (202) 598-8259
katherine.j.shinners@usdoj.gov

ELISSA P. FUDIM
Trial Attorney

Counsel for Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on June 20, 2025, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF, which provided an electronic notice and electronic link of the same to all attorneys of record.

/s/ Katherine J. Shinnors
Katherine J. Shinnors
Senior Litigation Counsel
United States Department of Justice
Civil Division

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

SVITLANA DOE, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	Civil Action No.
)	
v.)	1:25-cv-10495-IT
)	
KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity as)	
Secretary of Homeland Security, et al.;)	
)	
Defendants.)	

DECLARATION OF KIKA SCOTT

I, Kika Scott, make the following declaration, as permitted by Section 1746 of Title 28 of the United States Code. I am aware that this declaration will be filed in the above-captioned civil action with the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. I hereby certify:

1. I am the Acting Deputy Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a component agency within the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I have held this position since May 25, 2025. Previously I served as the senior official performing the duties of the USCIS director since Feb. 9, 2025. Before that, I served as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in the USCIS Office of the Chief Financial Officer since May 27, 2019.
2. The statements contained in this declaration are based upon my personal knowledge and upon information provided to me in my official capacity.
3. On May 28, 2025, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts issued a Memorandum and Order Granting Partial Relief on Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Injunction and Stay of Administrative Action. *See Svitlana Doe, et al., v. Noem, et. al.*, No. 25-cv-10495 (D. Mass. May 28, 2025).
4. Pursuant to the District Court’s May 28, 2025 order, Angelica Alfonso-Royals, Acting Director for USCIS issued a memorandum on June 9, 2025, with the subject line,

“Adjudication of Requests filed by Parolees Under Specified Parole Programs” (Alfonso-Royals Memo). The Alfonso-Royals Memo authorizes USCIS officers to adjudicate all pending immigration benefit requests filed by aliens who are or were paroled into the United States under Uniting for Ukraine (U4U), the parole processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans (CHNV parole programs), and Family Reunification Parole (FRP) processes to a final agency action once USCIS has completed the additional vetting requirement for the parolees’ individual requests. The Alfonso-Royals Memo also authorizes USCIS officers to resume processing requests for re-parole and associated benefits for aliens paroled through a categorical parole program which were previously paused.

5. As reported previously, this memo was transmitted to the heads of all USCIS directorates on the same date and supervisors in all offices were informed that requests filed by aliens who are or were paroled under the relevant programs are no longer on hold.
6. USCIS updated the scripts used by the “website virtual agent” (Emma) and the reference materials used by Contact Center agents to respond to customer inquiries received by phone or secure message online regarding the status of immigration benefit requests impacted by the May 28 court order and the Alfonso-Royals Memo. As of June 13, 2025, general case inquiries or expedite requests from individuals who were or are paroled under CHNV, U4U, and FRP are being handled identically to case inquiries or expedite requests submitted by any other individual, without reference to the former hold(s). If a query specifically asks whether a hold is in place for CHNV, U4U, and FRP parolees, the reference material explains that, pursuant to this court’s May 28, 2025 order, USCIS is no longer holding the adjudication of immigration benefit requests filed by CHNV, U4U, and FRP parolees.¹ Queries specifically asking about OAW or Afghan re-parole similarly receive a response that USCIS is no longer holding the adjudication of such requests.

¹ On June 17, 2025, USCIS became aware of an error—flagged by Plaintiffs’ counsel—in one of the scripts being used by our call center that misidentified the applicable court order. The error was corrected on the same date.

7. As of June 19, 2025, all processing holds rescinded under the Alfonso-Royals Memo have been lifted in USCIS systems.
8. Other implementation efforts are ongoing. The USCIS adjudicative directorates (Field Operations (FOD); Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations (RAIO); Service Center Operations (SCOPS); and the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)) have begun developing guidance necessary for adjudicating each type of benefit request, which will be distributed as it is finalized. The guidance instructs adjudicators to resume processing of benefit requests that were previously on hold and on vetting procedures for cases in which fraud or national security risk indicators have been identified.
9. I declare under penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this 20th day of June, 2025, in Camp Springs, Maryland.

KIKA M SCOTT Digitally signed by KIKA M
SCOTT
Date: 2025.06.20 13:16:04 -04'00'

Kika Scott
Acting Deputy Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security