

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2020

Secretary Michael Pompeo
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Acting Secretary Chad Wolf
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20528

Secretary Pompeo and Acting Secretary Wolf,

The Diversity Immigrant Visa (DV) Program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come to America and serves as a beacon of hope for the millions who apply each year. I write to express my concern regarding the Trump Administration's cruel and purposeful attacks on the DV Program and to request information regarding your compliance with the U.S. District Court's September 30 order to preserve 9,095 of the unused green cards for visa lottery winners.

The DV Program was established to diversify our immigrant population and the fortunate few who secure entry are chosen from an annual visa lottery that has recently seen as many as 14.7 million participants. Each of these hopeful applicants is invested in becoming part of another generation of immigrants that adds to the diverse social fabric of our country. With devastating impacts on tens of thousands of deserving immigrants, the Administration has sought to use Proclamation 10052 and the COVID-19 pandemic to undermine the DV Program and block lottery winners from entering the country.

As you are aware, the U.S. District Court ruled against the Trump Administration on September 4 in the Gomez v. Trump case and directed you to make good faith efforts to "expeditiously process and adjudicate DV-2020 diversity visa" applications and issue visas to those eligible by the September 30, 2020 deadline. In response to your bald-faced attempts to slow walk the DV Program beyond the statutory deadline, the court ruled again on September 30 that the Administration must preserve 9,095 green cards for visa lottery winners.

Tens of thousands of visa lottery winners are now waiting to see if you will follow the law, comply with the court order, and treat them fairly. Given these concerns, I seek information regarding what steps the Administration is taking to ensure adequate resources are dedicated to complying with the court's order and what actions are being implemented to ensure the order is fulfilled in a timely fashion. Please send your reply by October 15, 2020.

REPLY TO:

2107 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE
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(202) 225-4671

504 BROADWAY
LONG BRANCH, NJ 07740
(732) 571-1140

67/69 CHURCH STREET
KILMER SQUARE
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(732) 249-8892

TOLL-FREE NUMBER:
(888) 423-1140

<https://pallone.house.gov/>

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." in a cursive style.

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress