

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR
MARGARET E. DAUM, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

July 10, 2017

James McCament
Acting Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20529

Dear Mr. McCament:

On January 23, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (DHS OIG) released an urgent recommendation for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to halt plans to reinstate the use of the Electronic Immigration System (USCIS ELIS), a case management system intended to allow USCIS to process certain immigration benefit requests electronically.¹ On March 16, the Inspector General again stated in testimony that USCIS should refrain from the use of USCIS ELIS due to 200,000 reports from approved applicants about missing green cards.²

In order to better understand the issues surrounding USCIS ELIS, I request you provide a briefing to the Committee staff, and the following information at your earliest convenience but in no event later than July 31, 2017:

1. All awarded contracts and amendments for the USCIS ELIS;
2. All Acquisition Decision Events memos;
3. The mission needs statement, capability development plan, acquisition program baseline(s), integration logistics support plan, acquisition plan, life-cycle cost

¹ Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, *DHS OIG Urgently Recommends USCIS Halt Plans to Use the Electronic Immigration System (ELIS) for Naturalization Application Processing* (Jan. 23, 2017) (www.oig.dhs.gov/assets/pr/2017/oigpr-012317.pdf); Government Accountability Office, *Immigration Benefits System: Significant Risks in USCIS's Efforts to Develop its Adjudication and Case Management System* (GAO-17-486T) (Mar. 16, 2017).

² House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, *Immigration Benefits Vetting: Examining Critical Weaknesses in USCIS Systems*, 115th Cong. (Mar. 16, 2017).

estimate(s), operational requirement document, and test and evaluation master plan;

4. A budget for the next 5 years associated with planned expenses for the continued build and launch of USCIS ELIS;
5. Any analysis of alternatives to USCIS ELIS that would digitize the immigration system;
6. A list of case management tasks that will be automated or digitized under USCIS ELIS, and tasks that will still require manual processing; and
7. The corrective action plan that addresses the concerns presented by the DHS OIG.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions please contact Tim Brennan with my staff at (202) 224-1839 or Tim_Brennan@hsgac.senate.gov. Please send any official correspondence related to this request to Amanda Trosen at Amanda_Trosen@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman