

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

November 20, 2025

The Honorable Joseph Edlow
Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
5900 Capitol Gateway Drive
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Dear Director Edlow:

My office has received extremely concerning reports that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has indefinitely cancelled naturalization ceremonies across multiple counties in New York without providing a clear reason, legal justification, or plan for rescheduling them. As a result, New Yorkers who have completed every legal requirement find themselves unable to take the Oath of Allegiance. These cancellations are effectively denying access to citizenship and represent a serious departure from the policies and legal responsibilities of USCIS. I urge you to immediately reverse course on this decision.

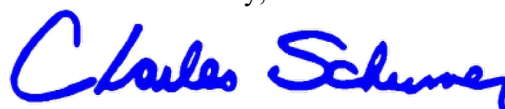
Taking the Oath of Allegiance is not only a symbolic step that many and their families look forward to, but it is a legal requirement without which a person cannot become a U.S. citizen. It is therefore of upmost importance that these naturalization ceremonies take place and are not unnecessarily delayed.

As you are aware, federal law under Section 337 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as implemented by 8 C.F.R. §337, requires that, “naturalization ceremonies...be conducted...as frequently as necessary to ensure timely naturalization, but in all events at least once monthly where it is required to minimize unreasonable delays.” Indefinite postponements or unexplained cancellations are directly inconsistent with your obligations under federal law.

I find no reasonable explanation why USCIS would notify county clerks of these cancellations without communicating a clear timeline of when these ceremonies will be rescheduled or whether they will take place in alternative locations. In fact, these USCIS actions appear to be part of a broader pattern of restricting who participates in naturalization ceremonies, reducing the number of venues, and increasing the number of hurdles New Yorkers face to become U.S. citizens.

New Yorkers deserve clear communication and timely access to their lawful right to citizenship. I hope to hear soon from you about your plan to restart these naturalization ceremonies and how you plan to increase access to USCIS services to New Yorkers across the state. I appreciate your prompt attention and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator