



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

October 30, 2015

The Honorable Paul A. Gosar
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gosar:

Thank you for your April 27, 2015 letter to President Obama. The White House referred your letter to the Department of Homeland Security for response. Secretary Johnson asked that I respond on his behalf. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Central American Minors (CAM) program is one method by which the Administration is addressing the humanitarian situation in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Specifically, the program allows certain qualified children from these countries a safe, legal, and orderly alternative to the dangerous journey many would otherwise undertake to the United States. While we are endeavoring to provide detailed responses to your questions, I would like to address some of the issues raised in your letter.

With regard to the legal basis for the CAM program, the President makes a determination regarding the number of admissions under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) each fiscal year (FY), after appropriate consultations with Congress in accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). The FY 2015 report to Congress provided to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees from the Executive Branch included a discussion of plans to launch the CAM program. President Obama signed the Presidential Determination for FY 2015 on September 30, 2014, including the authorization for in-country refugee processing in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, among other locations.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) parole authority is found in section 212(d)(5)(A) of the INA. The USRAP has previously coupled refugee with parole processing, on a case-by-case basis, for certain populations such as those in Cuba and Iraq, as well as historical processing in the former Soviet Union.

With regard to your questions concerning funding, USCIS does not use annually appropriated funds for the USRAP. The CAM program, like all of USCIS refugee processing, is funded through USCIS' Immigration Examinations Fee Account (IEFA). The IEFA is the primary source of funding for USCIS. Fees collected from immigration benefit applications and petitions are deposited into the IEFA and are used to fund the cost of processing those applications and petitions. These fees also cover the cost of processing other immigration applications and determinations, such as refugee and asylum applicants, without charge. See 8 U.S.C. 1356(m) and (n).

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important matter. I will provide you with more detailed information on the CAM program in the near future. The co-signers of your letter will receive separate, identical responses. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "León Rodríguez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'R'.

León Rodríguez
Director