



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 27, 2026

Markwayne Mullin  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE,  
Washington, DC 20032

Dear Secretary Mullin,

Congratulations on securing bipartisan support to assume one of the most important jobs in America. You are entering this role at a particularly critical moment, and I know from our time together in Congress that you take this responsibility seriously. As such, I am asking you to resume some processes that were paused by your predecessor.

**Start Processing Citizenship Applications for Cubans and Venezuelans:** As one of your first actions as the ninth U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, I am asking you to resume immigration benefit and naturalization processing for Cubans and Venezuelans. Many of these Cuban and Venezuelan nationals fled persecution and violence and are excited to start truly living the American dream. These individuals have already been thoroughly vetted.

**Keep Increased Security Vetting Measures:** While I strongly support increased security vetting measures to ensure we are not letting criminals in the United States, we can ramp up security screening without pausing the naturalization process. The individuals affected by this pause are legal immigrants that have been here, received lawful permanent resident status, and qualify to become citizens.

**Resume Naturalization Ceremonies:** Miami typically has dozens of naturalization ceremonies a year, and this is something our community is very proud of. Welcoming new, patriotic Americans should be one of the highlights of our government. However, the pause in processing has completely shut this off. **This has prevented tens of thousands of Cubans and Venezuelans, many of whom I know personally, and are eager to participate in a new political system, from becoming American citizens.**

With the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our nation right around the corner, there would be nothing more fitting than being able to naturalize new Americans on our semi-quincentennial anniversary, just as we did at the founding of our great nation.

I look forward to your response and invite you to Miami any time to discuss how important this issue is to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Salazar', written over a light blue grid background.

Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress