

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
Services
Office of the Director
Camp Springs, MD 20588-0009



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

February 14, 2025

Memorandum

FROM: Andrew Davidson,
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TO: Connie Nolan, Associate Director, Service Center Operations
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SUBJECT: **Administrative Hold on All USCIS Benefit Requests filed by Parolees Under the
Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) Process, Processes for Haitians, Cubans,
Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans (CHNV) Process, or Family Reunification Parole
(FRP) Process**

Purpose: This memorandum authorizes an immediate USCIS-wide administrative hold on all pending benefit requests filed by aliens who are or were paroled into the United States under the U4U, CHNV, or FRP processes pending the completion of additional vetting flags in ELIS to identify any fraud, public safety, or national security concerns.

Background: USCIS' authority to exercise the parole power stems from the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section [212\(d\)\(5\)\(A\)](#), which states that parole is available "only on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit."

Over the previous two years, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has implemented processes through which Ukrainians, Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, Venezuelans, and nationals of other countries, and their immediate family members, could request to travel to the United States to seek parole.¹ Under the U4U, CHNV, and FRP processes, potential beneficiaries with a confirmed

¹ Implementation of a Parole Process for Cubans, 88 FR 1266 (Jan. 9, 2023); Implementation of a Change to the Parole Process for Cubans, 88 FR 26329 (Apr. 28, 2023). Implementation of a Parole Process for Haitians, 88 FR 1243 (Jan. 9,

U.S.-based supporter may be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for advanced authorization to travel to an interior U.S. port of entry to seek a discretionary grant of parole for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. The processes are initiated when a U.S.-based potential supporter files a Form I-134A, Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support, with USCIS through myUSCIS for each beneficiary they seek to support. The potential supporter is vetted by USCIS and if the potential supporter passed vetting checks and is determined by USCIS as able to financially support the beneficiary, USCIS confirms the Form I-134A.

In July 2024, USCIS suspended parts of the CHNV processes after a USCIS Fraud Detection and National Security (FDNS) Directorate preliminary assessment identified potential concerns related to fraudulent supporter requests, during an internal review of the U4U and CHNV processes (or, as the report stated, the “UCHNV” process). An Interim Staff Report of the Committee on the Judiciary and Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, titled ["The Biden-Harris Administration's CHNV Parole Program Two Years Later: A Fraud-Ridden, Unmitigated Disaster,"](#) indicates, in part, that Forms I-134A filed by potential supporters under the CHNV processes included social security numbers, addresses, and phone numbers that had been used hundreds of times and, in some cases, were filed used biographical information for individuals who are deceased. Roughly 100,948 Forms I-134A were filed by 3,200 “serial” supporters, defined as a supporter whose biographical data appeared on 20 or more Forms I-134A. The report also found that nearly 1,000 Form I-134A applications provided Social Security numbers of confirmed dead people. Meanwhile, 100 physical addresses for potential supporters were used at least 124 times on over 19,000 Forms I-134A. Upon further investigation, fraud was confirmed in some of these cases, while it was not in others.² Further, the identified potential concerns related to fraudulent supporter requests exposed serious vulnerabilities in USCIS’ vetting process not only for potential supporters but also for potential beneficiaries. There were instances identified where certain beneficiaries were not fully vetted by CBP and were the subject of national security or public safety information that was not properly assessed prior to parole by CBP. Therefore, benefit requests filed by aliens who are or were paroled under any of these categorical parole programs need further review to determine the level of fraud and the possible involvement of beneficiaries.

On January 20, 2025, the President issued Executive Order (EO) 14165, [Securing our Borders](#), requiring DHS to terminate all categorical parole programs that are contrary to law or policy, including the parole program known as CHNV.³ The President also issued EO 14161, [Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats](#),

2023); Implementation of a Change to the Parole Process for Haitians, 88 FR 26327 (Apr. 28, 2023). Implementation of a Parole Process for Nicaraguans, 88 FR 1255 (Jan. 9, 2023). Implementation of a Parole Process for Venezuelans, 87 FR 63507 (Oct. 19, 2022); Implementation of Changes to the Parole Process for Venezuelans, 88 FR 1279 (Jan. 9, 2023)). Implementation of a Family Reunification Parole Process for Colombians, 88 FR 43591 (July 10, 2023); Implementation of a Family Reunification Parole Process for Ecuadorians, 88 FR 78762 (Nov. 16, 2023); Implementation of a Family Reunification Parole Process for Salvadorans, 88 FR 43611 (July 10, 2023); Implementation of a Family Reunification Parole Process for Guatemalans, 88 FR 43581 (July 10, 2023); Implementation of a Family Reunification Parole Process for Hondurans, 88 FR 43601 (July 10, 2023); Implementation of Changes to the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Process, 88 FR 54639 (Aug. 11, 2023); Implementation of Changes to the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Process, 88 FR 54635 (Aug. 11, 2023); Implementation of the Uniting for Ukraine Parole Process (Apr. 27, 2022).

² For additional details on the fraud found in the CHNV parole process, see [Interim Staff Report of the Committee on the Judiciary and Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement](#) (November 20, 2024).

³ See, [Securing Our Borders](#), Executive Order 14165, 90 FR 8467, 8468 (Jan. 20, 2025) available at (last viewed Jan. 28, 2025).

requiring DHS to identify all resources that may be used to ensure that all aliens seeking admission to the U.S., or who are already in the U.S., are screened and vetted to the maximum degree possible and re-establish a uniform baseline for screening and vetting standards and procedures, consistent with the uniform baseline that existed on January 19, 2021, that will be used for any alien seeking a visa or immigration benefit of any kind.⁴

Currently, fraud information and public safety or national security concerns are not being properly flagged in USCIS' adjudicative systems. The procedures that the parolees under these categorical parole programs underwent may not constitute screening and vetting to the maximum degree possible or comport with the uniform baseline for screening and vetting standards and procedures that existed on January 19, 2021, both of which are required per EO 14161.

Due to the potential fraud trends already identified for supporter fraud by FDNS in their initial review of the U4U and CHNV processes, the implication of beneficiary participation in the supporter fraud, and the explicit instruction to DHS to screen and vet aliens seeking immigration benefits to the maximum degree possible, USCIS is pausing the adjudication of benefit requests filed by aliens who are or were paroled into the United States under the U4U, CHNV, or FRP processes to ensure that these benefit requests are being reviewed with the appropriate screening and vetting standards and procedures as set out in EO 14161.

Recommendation/Decision: Accordingly, USCIS will immediately place an administrative hold on all benefit requests filed by aliens who are or were paroled into the United States under the U4U, CHNV, or FRP processes, pending the completion of the required screening and vetting in ELIS to identify any fraud, public safety, or national security concerns.

Any case subject to this administrative hold with a litigation need may only be lifted from the hold on a case-by-case basis, in a subsequent memo to file, with approval by the USCIS Director or USCIS Deputy Director. This case-by-case requirement must be followed even when aliens are member of a class that is subject to injunction, settlement agreement, or other court order. Once USCIS completes a comprehensive review and evaluation of the in-country population of aliens who are or were paroled into the United States under these categorical parole programs, USCIS may issue a subsequent memo lifting this administrative hold.

C.C. John Miles, Chief Counsel (A)

Susan Knafla, Associate Director (A), Fraud Detection and National Security

⁴ See, [Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats](#), 90 FR 8451 (Jan. 29, 2025) (last viewed Feb. 4, 2025).