

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 032 - Folder 003

**Immigration -
Appropriations**

Rahm -
From the INS
meeting you
missed.
OMB knows
about the
issue, but
if you care
about it,
you
should
probably
put your
two cents
in.
Elena

BUDGET CUTS TO INS CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLITICAL POSITIONS

Proposed Appropriations language drastically cuts INS Congressional Relations and Public Affairs staff, and limits the number of noncareer positions

- We are currently operating under an Appropriations-imposed cap of 48 for Congressional and Public Affairs (Congressional has 23; Public Affairs has 25). This was a 21 percent reduction in staff for Congressional from FY 96.
- Proposed language would further reduce staffing by a significant amount (approximately 33 percent in the House (from 48 to 32), 60 percent in the Senate (from 48 to 20)).
- Current and proposed language also prohibits any augmentation of staffing -- ruling out detailed or contract staff to help type Congressional letters and summer interns to help answer phones.
- Proposed House language limits INS to four political positions. Current noncareer positions total 10, including the Commissioner -- down from 18 in the Bush Administration.

Public Affairs and Congressional workload has increased dramatically

- Major new immigration and welfare legislation has created a huge increase in workload. (Documentation is available.) INS is straining to keep Congress, the public and the media informed on hundreds of implementation issues and to respond to tens of thousands of inquiries from or about those affected by the new laws. (Congressional expects 7,500 letters and 40,000 calls this year alone -- more than 40 % more than last year. Member and staff-requested briefings have tripled.)

Staff reductions will hurt the Congress and the public

- Cuts will effectively shutdown INS public information efforts to explain immigration policies and programs which inform millions of individuals and families who are affected by the immigration laws.
- Cuts will delay the response time to the increasing number of written and phone inquiries from Congressional offices, and will in turn affect the responsiveness of Congressional offices to their constituents.

INS noncareer positions are already few

- This Administration has reduced the number of noncareer positions at INS by nearly half. INS, despite being the focal point of immigration policy for the Executive Branch, has few noncareer employees compared to other agencies. (With more than 25,000 employees, INS has one noncareer position for every 2,560 employees; State Department has 1/87 employees; Commerce will have 1/127 after reductions take effect.)

July 22, 1997

Impact of Budget Cuts on OPA

INS Office of Public Affairs Serves As Agency's Primary Source For Information Affecting Millions of Immigrants and Citizens

- **INS is the only Department of Justice agency with a direct customer base—millions of individuals and families in the U.S. affected by immigration law and procedures, as well as millions of others desiring to enter the U.S. from abroad.**
 - OPA's timely flow of information is critical to informing these "customers" about immigration law and the often complex procedures for qualified applicants to receive immigration benefits.
 - In addition, the office provides information about enforcement efforts and this nation's determination to enforce U.S. immigration law—thus serving as a deterrent to those who would attempt to enter illegally.
- **The proposed reductions in the FY98 Appropriations bills would effectively shutdown INS public information operations.**
 - Given the sheer volume of telephone calls that come in daily from the news media, the public, non-governmental organizations and INS offices in the field, these reductions would virtually eliminate OPA's ability to actively communicate on issues that affect the public and INS' customer base.
 - After accounting for case worker staff assigned to the Office of Congressional Relations, the few positions left would need to be dedicated simply to answering the telephone and sending inquiries directly to the policy experts (which, depending on their priorities, either diverts their time and attention from substantive work or causes inquiries to go unanswered).
 - An overview of the impact of such reductions follows:
- **OPA will lose its ability to prepare written materials and full-scale public education efforts to explain immigration policies and programs.**
 - Just since January 1997, OPA produced more than 90 releases and fact sheets, more than 50 percent devoted to changes in public law, immigration policies and procedures directly affecting the public, recruitment support, or distribution of INS resources to individual states. An index is attached.

Some of the education efforts include:

- Description of prohibitions and penalties for employment of illegal aliens,
- Delineation of tougher penalties for violators of immigration law, use of fraudulent documents, and smuggling aliens into the United States,
- Distribution of information needed by Salvadoran and Nicaraguan and other groups in temporary protected status,

- Introduction of a tamper-proof EAD card (affecting 8-10 million U.S. businesses) and new employment verification procedures, border entry card changes (affecting millions in foreign countries), and
 - Explanation of changes in naturalization benefit procedures (affecting, for example, millions of naturalized U.S. citizens who seek immigration for their family members).
- **OPA will not be able to provide clear explanations and clarification of immigration laws and procedures in response to ethnic, mainstream and foreign media queries (some can involve up to 12-16 hours for queries).**
- In the last 18 months, the Media Services Division, which comprises approximately 50 percent of OPA, has responded to nearly 47,000 phone inquiries from the news media, community groups, a range of academic and privately funded institutions and advocacy groups, foreign embassies, and the public.
 - Ethnic media outlets in Washington and around the country rely on OPA for information on immigration issues that directly affect their audiences. This vehicle for getting information widely disseminated is critical to informing key groups affected most by INS programs and procedures.
 - A number of U.S. Representatives from districts with large Hispanic populations have recognized that accurate information materials and responsiveness to the media help keep the public informed on immigration matters that affect them. Ethnic media and advocacy groups also have recognized OPA's role in helping to clarify misunderstandings concerning adjustment of status and fraudulent marriages earlier this year.
- **OPA will not be able to conduct an essential internal information and field support program for an agency of 26,000 employees that is undergoing top-to-bottom change.**
- Internal information is critical to INS adapting to needed reform. In 1994, OPA upgraded the existing Service newsletter, *The Communiqué*. Much more needs to be done to improve INS internal communications, and reductions would eliminate OPA's plans for further methods to better inform employees.
 - Regions, Districts and Sectors have limited staffs that depend on information materials, including releases and fact sheets, prepared by OPA's staff to communicate national policy locally to media, special interest groups, and communities. In addition, special situations often arise that are beyond the limited public information resources in the field and require Headquarters public affairs guidance or staff support.
- **OPA will not be able to respond to emergency situations (e.g., migration crises).**
- The Cuban/Haitian mass migration crises of 1994 required establishment of Public Affairs augmentation in Miami and Harlingen, Texas to daily and oftentimes hourly communicate developing situations. Current plans require OPA support at the national level and to support field information needs.

IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTS ON INS CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

INS CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS SERVES AS SOLE LIAISON WITH 535 CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES ON CASEWORK AND IMMIGRATION LAW

Proposed Appropriations language would drastically cut INS Congressional Relations staff

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Congressional workload has increased dramatically

- Major new immigration and welfare legislation has created a huge increase in workload. Congressional Relations is straining to keep Congress informed on hundreds of implementation issues and respond to thousands of inquiries from constituents affected by the new laws.
- Written correspondence this year to date has increased 34 percent over all of FY 96; phone inquiries are up 21 percent. We expect to receive more than 7,500 letters and 50,000 calls this year alone. [These figures are substantially higher than any level ever recorded -- FY 92-96 totals were 4300-5900 on letters; 26,000-31,000 calls.] These increases have already created a correspondence backlog. Turnaround time has jumped from 30 days to three or more months. Cuts will only exacerbate this problem.
- Briefings for Members and staff have increased from 55 for all of 1996 to 130 to date for 1997. These briefings cover including implementation of the new immigration law, updates on INS operations, and local immigration issues.
- INS has prepared testimony and information for 26 hearings to date in 1997 -- almost as many as all of 1996 and more than double the number (12) in 1994.
- These activities have been undertaken with a lean staff -- Congressional Relations has minimal clerical staff (meaning that professional staff must perform their own clerical functions)

Staff reductions will hurt the Congress

- The Commissioner has made a commitment to be open and responsive to the Congress. Everyone benefits from this commitment. Cuts will severely impede these efforts given the extremely demanding workload.
- Cuts will delay the response time to the increasing number of written and phone inquiries from Congressional offices, and will in turn affect the responsiveness of Congressional offices to their constituents.

POLITICAL APPOINTEES IN THE INS

Currently, under Commissioner Meissner, there are 8 political appointees, not counting Commissioner Meissner.

As of 1/19/93 (end of Bush Administration), there were 16 political appointees, not counting Commissioner McNary.

CURRENT POLITICAL APPOINTEES IN THE INS

Commissioner

Director for Public Affairs

Executive Associate Commissioner for Policy and Planning

Director of Congressional Relations

Director of International Affairs

Executive Officer to the Deputy Commissioner

Special Assistant to the Commissioner

Director, of Media Services

Special Assistant to the Commissioner

END OF BUSH ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner

Deputy Commissioner

Chief of Staff

General Counsel

Executive Associate Commissioner for Operations

Director of Congressional Affairs

Director of Foreign Operations

Regional Administrator, Western Region

Director, Asylum Policy and Review Unit

Special Assistant to the Commissioner for Policy Development
Special Projects Director to the Deputy Commissioner
Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs
Special Assistant
Executive Assistant
Special Assistant
Special Assistant
Deputy Director, Asylum Policy and Review Unit

NONCAREER POSITIONS IN VARIOUS AGENCIES

Sorted by FTEs per Noncareer

Agency	Senate confirmed	Noncareer SES	Sched C	Total noncareer	Total FTEs	FTEs per noncareer
Education	20	18	105	143	4,700	33
Justice Programs	6	4	5	15	536	36
Marshals Svc	89	1	0	90	3,933	44
State	181	32	50	263	22,900	87
US Attorneys	79	1	26	106	9,607	91
Other DOJ	17	35	38	90	8,444	94
USIA	16	8	22	46	7,000	152
Labor	7	28	66	101	16,000	158
Commerce	20	57	116	193*	33,800	175
Justice	194	48	72	314	108,487	346
Agriculture	20	48	189	257	100,700	392
GSA*	1	18	19	38	15,700	413
EPA	9	14	17	40	17,200	430
HHS	8	56	46	110	57,200	520
Treasury	19	24	49	92	151,100	1,642
INS	1	6	3	10	24,736	2,474
Customs	1	2	0	3	16,736	5,579
DEA	1	0	0	1	7,137	7,137
Forest Service	0	0	2	2	30,124	15,062
FBI	1	0	0	1	25,199	25,199
BOP	0	1	0	1	28,895	28,895

Revised 9/15/97