



HOW TO SUBMIT A COMMENT ON FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Frequently asked questions when submitting public
comments on proposed federal policy changes

MARCH 2023

After a law is passed by Congress, federal agencies—such as the Department of Homeland Security—must publish regulations to explain how those laws will be enforced. Because the enforcement of the laws has an impact on the public, federal law requires agencies to publish proposed rules and allow the public to comment on them.

Commenting on regulations is one of the most direct and important ways that the public can influence federal policy. Agencies depend on comments to assess the real impact of policies and actions on the public and they are required by law to read and consider the comments they receive.

WHERE CAN I FIND REGULATIONS THAT ARE OPEN FOR COMMENT?

All current regulations are published on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). You can also find them in the **Federal Register** ([federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov)), which is a daily publication of all regulation action on any given day. You can sign up for email alerts on the Federal Register web site to get notified when a regulation is scheduled to be published.

For example, you could sign up for alerts for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and be notified any time there is a change to USCIS regulations and forms.

On both sites, you can search by agency, docket number, or posting date to find the regulation you want to comment on.

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WHY ARE THERE TWO PLACES TO SUBMIT A PUBLIC COMMENT? WHICH ONE SHOULD I CHOOSE?

The official site to submit electronic comments is [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). The Federal Register is like a daily newspaper that posts notices of regulatory action. For some rules, the agency will allow the public to submit comments through the Federal Register website which automatically sends the comment to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). This option is not available for all rules, but where allowed, there's **no difference** between submitting on the Federal Register web site or [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

You can submit comments any time during the comment period, which is usually 30 or 60 days from the date that the regulation is published. The postings on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and the Federal Register will show the deadline for submitting comments.

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF
WHERE THE **COMMENT DUE
DATE** IS LOCATED ON BOTH
THE [REGULATIONS.GOV](https://www.regulations.gov)
AND [FEDERAL REGISTER](https://www.federalregister.gov)
WEBSITES FOR THE
CIRCUMVENTION OF LAWFUL
PATHWAYS RULE (THE
ASYLUM TRANSIT BAN):



Regulations.gov
Your Voice in Federal Decision Making

Docket (USCIS-2022-0016) / Document

PROPOSED RULE

Circumvention of Lawful Pathways

Posted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on Feb 22, 2023

Comment View Related Comments (2.67K) Share

Document Details Browse Posted Comments (2.67K)

Document ID
USCIS-2022-0016-0001

Comments Received
2,635 Details

Document Details

Comment Due Date ⓘ
Mar 27, 2023

Federal Register Number ⓘ
2023-03718

CFR ⓘ

Content

Action
Notice of proposed rulemaking.

Summary
The Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") and the Department of Justice ("DOJ") are proposed rulemaking ("NPRM" or "proposed rule") in anticipation of a potential surge of border ("SWB") of the United States following the eventual termination of the Centers for Prevention's ("CDC") public health Order. The proposed rule would encourage migrants to lawful, safe, and orderly pathways into the United States, or otherwise to seek asylum or countries through which they travel, thereby reducing reliance on human smuggling networks for financial gain. It would do so by introducing a rebuttable presumption of asylum ineligible noncitizens who neither avail themselves of a lawful, safe, and orderly pathway to the United States or other protection in a country through which they travel. In the absence of such a measure implemented on a temporary basis, the number of migrants expected to travel without such States is expected to increase significantly, to a level that risks undermining the Department's ability to safely, effectively, and humanely enforce and administer U.S. immigration law, including the fee of expedited processing advantages. Coupled with an example of fee of expedited processing advantages.

REGULATIONS.GOV

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TEACHING, INTERPRETING,
& CHANGING LAW SINCE 1979

COMMUNITY
EXPLAINER



FEDERAL REGISTER

The Daily Journal of the United States Government



PR Proposed Rule

Convention of Lawful Pathways

Proposed Rule by the Homeland Security Department and the Executive Office for Immigration Review on 02/23/2023



This document has a comment period that ends in 19 days. (03/27/2023)

SUBMIT A FORMAL COMMENT

2635 comments received. [View posted comments](#)

FEDERALREGISTER.GOV

PUBLISHED DOCUMENT

Start Printed Page 11704

AGENCY:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security;
Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice.

ACTION:

Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") and the Department of Justice ("DOJ") are issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking ("NPRM" or "proposed rule") in anticipation of a potential surge of migration at the southwest border ("SWB") of the United States following the eventual termination of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's ("CDC") public health Order. The proposed rule would encourage migrants to avail themselves of lawful, safe, and orderly pathways into the United States, or otherwise to seek asylum or other protection in countries through which they travel, thereby reducing reliance on human smuggling networks that exploit migrants for financial gain. It would do so by

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Printed version:

[PDF](#)

Publication Date:

02/23/2023

Agencies:

[Department of Homeland Security](#)
[Executive Office for Immigration Review](#)

Dates:

Comments must be submitted on or before March 27, 2023. The electronic Federal Docket Management System will accept comments before midnight eastern time at the end of that day.

Comments Close:

03/27/2023

Document Type:

Proposed Rule

Document Citation:

88 FR 11704

NOTE

COMMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE MIDNIGHT EASTERN TIME ON THE SPECIFIED DATE. THE SUBMISSION PORTALS WILL NOT ALLOW FOR COMMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED AFTER MIDNIGHT EASTERN TIME EVEN IF IT IS NOT MIDNIGHT YET WHERE YOU ARE.



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WHY ARE THERE TWO PLACES TO SUBMIT A PUBLIC COMMENT? WHICH ONE SHOULD I CHOOSE?

Any member of the public is allowed to submit a comment during the open comment period. You do not need specialized training and you are able to submit your comment anonymously. You can submit your comment either as an individual or as an organization or a collaborative group.

WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD I PUT IN MY COMMENT?

Any relevant information that you think the agency should consider before the regulation takes effect. Information about how a proposed regulation might affect you, your family, your community or the people your organization serves may be especially helpful to the agency. If you have data or survey results that you want the agency to consider, you can share that. If you have personal stories from community members that you want to highlight, you can share that.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS TO THE INFORMATION I CAN PUT IN MY COMMENT?

No, BUT the agency is only required to consider comments that are relevant to the regulation. Comments about different topics or that have nothing to do with the specific regulation will not be considered. Additionally, the agency does not have to consider comments that are submitted after the comment period ends or that were submitted via a method outside of the instructions. For example, if electronic submission through regulations.gov is required, the agency does not have to accept comments that are mailed or sent through email.

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Instructions on how to submit comments will be listed on regulations.gov and on the Federal Register posting for the rule. Usually, the agency will accept electronic

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comments - which must be written in English - on both regulations.gov and the Federal Register web site, but there are times where comments must be mailed to the agency and both web sites will have instructions of how to do that. Sometimes the agency only allows electronic submission through regulations.gov.

Where electronic submission is allowed, there is a button on both web sites that you can click which will take you to a submission screen. You can either type your comment into this screen or you can upload a file with your comment.

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF
WHERE THE **COMMENT
SUBMISSION BUTTON**
IS LOCATED ON BOTH
THE REGULATIONS.GOV
AND FEDERAL REGISTER
WEBSITES FOR THE USCIS
PROPOSED FEE RULE:



Regulations.gov
Your Voice in Federal Decision Making

Docket (USCIS-2021-0010) / Document

PROPOSED RULE

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Fee Schedule and Changes to Certain Other Immigration Benefit Request Requirements

Posted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on Jan 3, 2023

Comment View More Documents (221) View Related Comments (5.2K) Share

Document Details Browse Posted Comments (5.2K)

Document ID USCIS-2021-0010-0001

Comments Received 5,977 More Details

Content

Action Proposed rule.

Summary

REGULATIONS.GOV

FEDERAL REGISTER
Daily Journal of the United States Government



PR Proposed Rule

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Fee Schedule and
Certain Other Immigration Benefit Request
Requirements**

Homeland Security Department on 01/04/2023

comment period that ends in 6 days, (03/13/2023)

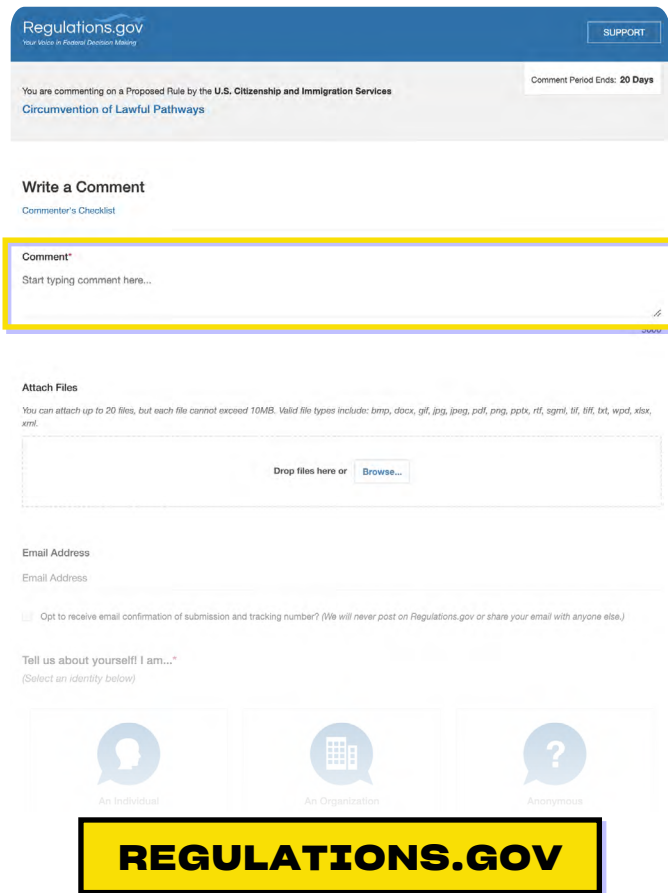
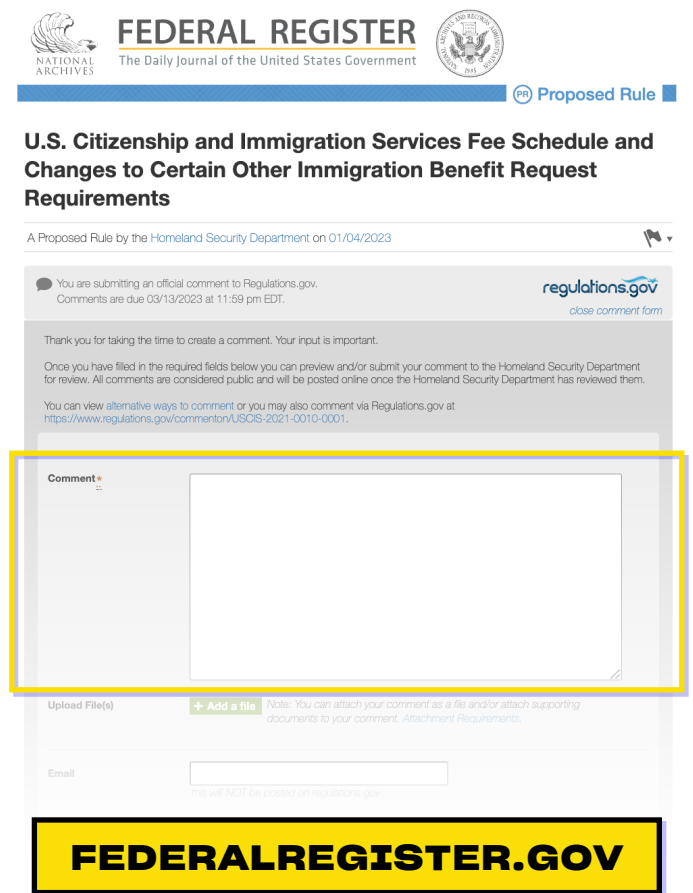
SUBMIT A FORMAL COMMENT

5977 comments received. view posted comments

FEDERALREGISTER.GOV

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LASTLY, HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE **COMMENT WRITE-IN FIELD** LOOKS LIKE AFTER SELECTING EACH OF THE COMMENT SUBMISSION BUTTONS ON BOTH THE REGULATIONS.GOV AND FEDERAL REGISTER WEBSITES FOR THE USCIS PROPOSED FEE RULE:

Are you a California Community College (CCC) or a California State University (CSU) student? If so, you qualify for **FREE** immigration legal services!

FIND OUT MORE

CCC: findyourally.com

CSU: findyourally.com/csu

Discover more community explainers, toolkits, & alerts about immigration law.

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