

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, DC 20536

The Honorable Kika Scott  
Senior Official Performing the Duties of  
Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
5900 Capital Gateway Dr  
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Dear Secretary Noem and Ms. Scott,

We write to express our concern regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) rule implementing new registration and fingerprinting requirements on Canadian travelers staying in the U.S. for more than 30 days. As Members representing states with economies and industries that rely heavily on Canadian travel and tourism, these new regulations will have significant consequences for communities like ours across the United States.

On January 20, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order requiring that all previously unregistered foreign nationals who remain in the U.S. for longer than 30 days register with U.S. immigration authorities.<sup>1</sup> Subsequently, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published an interim final rule (IFR) on March 12, 2025, amending DHS regulations to this end. Specifically, these regulations will cover all foreign nationals 14 years of age or older who enter the U.S. without authorization and stay for longer than 30 days, including Canadian travelers who have been historically exempt, regardless of their immigration status. These new registration requirements go into effect on April 11, 2025.<sup>2</sup>

USCIS's new requirements will directly impact an estimated 900,000 Canadian visitors who cross the U.S.-Canada land border, many of whom reside in the U.S. during winter months each year and contribute to local economies.<sup>3</sup> As explicitly outlined by USCIS, "Canadian visitors who entered the U.S. at land ports of entry and were not issued evidence of registration" are considered unregistered.<sup>4</sup> This is a major reversal in U.S. immigration policies with Canada,

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 14159. "Protecting the American People Against Invasion."

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>

<sup>2</sup> Federal Register, CIS No. 2810-25. "Alien Registration Form and Evidence of Registration."

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/12/2025-03944/alien-registration-form-and-evidence-of-registration>

<sup>3</sup> The Hill. "US Toughens Visitor Registration Rules for Canadians."

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5190591-us-canadians-visit-requirements/>

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement. "Alien Registration Requirement."

<https://www.uscis.gov/alienregistration>

especially as many Canadian visitors arriving at U.S. land ports of entry for business or pleasure have generally not been required to complete standard arrival and departure forms, otherwise known as I-94s.<sup>5</sup> This policy is customary given the historically friendly relationship between the U.S. and Canada as well as the reciprocal travel and tourism economies that are so closely intertwined. The administration's new requirements on Canadians could increase wait times for lawful and regular border crossings, further deter travel to the U.S., and shock local economies reliant on these visitors.

As you know, Canada consistently ranks highest in international arrivals to the U.S.<sup>6</sup> According to the U.S. Travel Association, Canadians made an estimated 20.4 million visits to the U.S. in 2024, with Florida, California, Nevada, New York, and Texas being the top visited states.<sup>7</sup> Personal vehicle crossings from Canada to Buffalo, New York increased by 50 percent in 2023, accommodating nearly four million Canadians traveling to visit U.S. tourism destinations, family members, or to conduct business.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, the top five U.S. ports straddling the U.S.-Canada border saw a 23.6 percent increase in pedestrian traffic from Canada in 2024 compared to 2023.<sup>9</sup> We are concerned that the administration's new and burdensome requirements for extended stays could further deter Canadian travel to the U.S., particularly given that failure to comply may result in criminal or civil penalties.

Given these concerns, we respectfully request that you provide information regarding the following questions:

1. Will Canadian NEXUS holders be subject to meeting these reporting requirements, including the change of address mandate within 10 days of moving?
2. How will this IFR be implemented at U.S.-Canadian land border crossings for long-term Canadian travelers who have traditionally not been required to fill out I-94 forms?
3. Canadians traveling to the U.S. through certain preclearance locations can register their information via the Mobile Passport Control (MPC) program. Does the use of this program meet the registration requirements outlined in the IFR?
4. Given these additional reporting requirements, how is U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) working to mitigate any effects on longer wait times at U.S./Canadian crossings?
5. The IFR requires reporting a change of address within 10 days of moving. Does this apply to situations in which individuals travel to more than two locations within a 10-day period?

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5 Congressional Research Service. "Immigration: Nonimmigrant (Temporary) Admissions to the United States." <https://crs.gov/Reports/R45040?source=search#fn56>

6 Congressional Research Service, "International Tourist Arrivals to the United States." <https://crs.gov/Reports/IG10071?source=search>

7 U.S. Travel. "Potential Results of Decline in Canadian Travel to United States." <https://www.ustravel.org/press/potential-results-decline-canadian-travel-united-states>

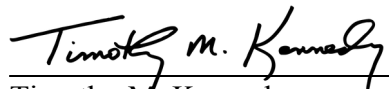
8 Bureau of Transportation Statistics. "Border Crossing Data Annual Release 2023." <https://www.bts.gov/newsroom/border-crossing-data-annual-release-2023#:~:text=The%20bridges%20at%20Buffalo%2C%20New,a%2050.7%25%20increase%20from%202022.&text=The%20number%20of%20pedestrians%20entering,17.1%25%20in%202023%20from%202022>.


9 Bureau of Transportation Statistics. "Border Crossing Data Annual Release: 2023-2024." <https://www.bts.gov/newsroom/border-crossing-data-annual-release-2023-2024>


6. To avoid accidental violation of this reversal in DHS policy, how is CBP working to educate travelers on these new requirements and ensure they do not unknowingly incur fines or face the risk of imprisonment?


Given that DHS intends to implement new regulations on Canadian travel on April 11, 2025, we ask that you provide a written response to the above questions no later than **April 8, 2025**.

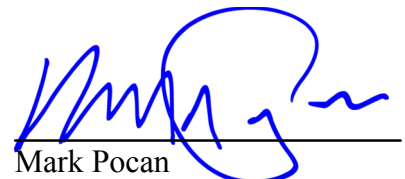
Sincerely,


  
Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress


  
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



George Latimer  
Member of Congress



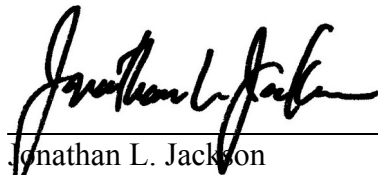
Rashida Tlaib  
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J. Luis Correa  
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Shri Thanedar  
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



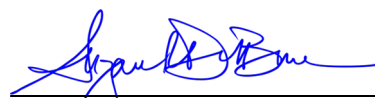
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Suzan K. DelBene  
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Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



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Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress