

December 6, 2024

The Honorable Members of Congress  
United States Congress  
Washington, D.C.



Dear Honorable Members of the U.S. Congress,

I am writing to bring to your immediate attention serious and systematic issues regarding the treatment of U.S. Minority Chamber of Commerce delegations by United States consulates in Colombia and Honduras. These concerning practices are actively undermining our organization's mission to promote legitimate economic development and reduce poverty through authorized business initiatives in these regions.

Over the past year, our chamber has documented numerous instances of what appears to be discriminatory treatment, including:

- Systematic rejection of valid business visa applications
- Unprecedented delays in processing times
- Inconsistent application of visa protocols
- Dismissive treatment of legitimate business delegations

These actions have severely impacted our ability to conduct authorized business activities and have compromised numerous economic development initiatives designed to create legitimate opportunities in vulnerable communities. Most concerning is the impact on our H2B and H2A visa programs, which are specifically designed to facilitate legal and regulated business travel.

We formally request the following immediate actions:

1. Launch a comprehensive investigation into the treatment of Chamber members and affiliated entrepreneurs by these consulates, with particular attention to H2B and H2A visa processing
2. Review current consular staffing and implement accountability measures to address apparent discriminatory practices
3. Establish clear protocols to ensure consistent and fair treatment of legitimate business visa applications
4. Address the systemic issues that have created barriers to authorized economic cooperation between the United States and these regions

The current situation not only harms legitimate business interests but also works against stated U.S. policy objectives of reducing illegal immigration through economic development. Our Chamber's initiatives are designed to create sustainable economic opportunities through proper channels, yet we find these efforts consistently thwarted by consular practices.

We stand ready to provide detailed documentation of these incidents and welcome the opportunity to work constructively with Congress to resolve these serious issues. The Chamber's extensive experience in facilitating legitimate international business development can be a valuable resource in crafting effective solutions.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and the opportunity to discuss these concerns in detail.

Sincerely,

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cc: Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of State  
U.S. Department of State Office of Appeals