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Dear Friend,

I am writing to you today to talk about our governor, Rod Blagojevich, and to ask that you talk to your family and friends about the importance of reelecting him as governor this November 7th.

Rod's father immigrated to the United States from the former Yugoslavia in search of opportunity and the American dream. Rod has never forgotten his immigrant roots and has tried to make it possible for those in our community to have the same opportunity to realize their dreams in the United States.

Governor Blagojevich has done so much to make our lives better. While inheriting a \$5 billion budget deficit from his predecessor, he has passed All Kids, a program which provides comprehensive, affordable health coverage to all children, regardless of their residency status, or family income. He has passed legislation to provide the opportunity for all parents to send their 3 and 4 year olds to preschool. He has also increased education funding by over \$3.8 billion, more than any other governor has done in one term in the history of Illinois.

Rod has also taken action when our leaders in Washington, DC failed to lead. When the federal government announced its Medicare Part D proposal, a plan which failed to provide comprehensive prescription drug coverage to all seniors, Governor Blagojevich created the Illinois Cares Rx program in order to fill the gap. So far over 250,000 people are taking advantage of the program and are leading healthier lives. To help offset the high cost of prescription drugs, Rod created the I-Save Rx plan to help our states' residents get lower cost drugs from other countries.

Rod has done all of this in his first term without raising the sales or income tax. Four years ago he promised he would not raise taxes and he has kept his promise.

We face an important decision on November 7th. He will continue to ensure that Illinois leads the nation in providing health care, quality education, and job creation. He will work to ensure that we all have the opportunity to live the American dream.

On November 7th, please vote to reelect Governor Rod Blagojevich.

Sincerely,

Budite obavešteni, ali objektivno čitajte

O B J E K T I V

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IMMIGRATION NEWS

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Significant Progress in Priority Dates for Those Awaiting Green Cards

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) sets limits on visas for those who want to immigrate to the United States based on a petition filed by either a family member or an employer. For family-based petitions, the INA makes preferences in allocating visa numbers. First preference is for the unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens. The second preference is for spouses and children, and unmarried sons and daughters (21+ years) of U.S. permanent residents. The third preference is for married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens. Finally, the fourth preference is for brothers and sisters of adult U.S. citizens.

Each month, the U.S. Department of State publishes the cut-off priority dates for those petitions that have available visa numbers. The priority date is usually the day the petition was received by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), as noted on the Receipt Notice. Those petitions who have a priority date that is earlier than the posted cut-off date can apply for adjustment of status to permanent resident (green card holder).

The Visa Bulletin for October 2006 shows there has been significant progress in processing family-based petitions, thus moving priority dates forward. Since last month, the priority date for the first preference moved 28 months ahead (from 01/01/98 to 05/01/00). For the second preference spouses and children, the priority date moved 19 months ahead (from 09/22/99 to 04/22/01), whereas second preference sons and daughters (21+ years) only moved 1 month (from 12/01/96 to 01/01/97). The third preference priority date moved forward by 21 days (from 10/01/98 to 10/22/98) and the fourth preference moved forward 1.5 months (from 08/01/95 to 09/15/95).

Change of Address Necessary

All non-immigrant visa holders and all permanent residents in the United States are required by law to file an AR-11 (Change of Address Form) with the USCIS within 10 days of moving from their current residence.

Faster Track to U.S. Citizenship

On September 15, 2006, the USCIS declared that it would eliminate the naturalization backlog and shorten the period of time it takes to become a U.S. citizen. The current average processing time for a naturalization application is 5 months. However, there are still some cases that are pending longer.

No More Temporary Employment Authorization Cards

Until recently, persons who applied for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD card) and whose application was not approved within 90 days of filing, could have gone to a local USCIS office to obtain a temporary EAD card. However, as of September 1, 2006, the USCIS will no longer issue temporary EAD cards. The USCIS is instead working to ensure that all EAD card applications are issued within 90 days of filing.

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