

Defendants provide the Court with notice of recent action taken by the Secretary of State regarding certain Plaintiffs in this matter. On February 24, 2021, Secretary Blinken granted national interest exceptions under Section 2 of Presidential Proclamations 9984, 9992 and 10143 (the “COVID-19 regional proclamations”) to individuals holding a valid diversity visa issued during fiscal year 2020. *See Rescission of Presidential Proclamation 10014*, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/rescission-of-presidential-proclamation-10014.html> (last visited Feb. 26, 2021). And, as Defendants previously noted, ECF No. 215, the President issued Proclamation 10149, which revoked Proclamation 10014, along with section 1 of Proclamation 10052, and section 1 of Proclamation 10131. *See The White House, A Proclamation on Revoking Proclamation 10014*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/a-proclamation-on-revoking-proclamation-10014/> (last visited Feb. 26, 2021).

The COVID-19 regional proclamations bar certain foreign nationals from attempting admission, or being admitted, into the United States if they have been physically present in certain countries within the preceding 14 days, due to COVID-19 pandemic conditions in those countries. Under Section 2 of each of the COVID-19 regional proclamations, however, the Secretary of State may determine that foreign nationals subject to the COVID-19 regional proclamations can be granted a waiver under a national interest exception. The Secretary of State has determined that persons holding valid FY 2020 diversity visas issued prior to September 30, 2020, subject to the COVID-19 regional proclamations, should be granted national interest exceptions.

Accordingly, Proclamation 10014 and the COVID-19 regional proclamations no longer bar persons holding valid FY 2020 diversity visas issued prior to September 30, 2020 from immediately seeking admission into the United States.

Dated: February 26, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division

WILLIAM C. PEACHEY
Director

GLENN M. GIRDHARRY
Assistant Director

/s/ Thomas B. York
Trial Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division
Office of Immigration Litigation
District Court Section
P.O. Box 868, Ben Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044
(202) 598-6073
thomas.b.york@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on February 26, 2021, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court by using the CM/ECF system, which will provide electronic notice and an electronic link to this document to all attorneys of record.

By: /s/ Thomas B. York
THOMAS B. YORK
Trial Attorney
United States Department of Justice
Civil Division