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IMMpact Litigation Announces Progress in Class Action Suit for Ukrainian Parolees Denied Work Authorization

****MEMPHIS, TN —**** IMMpact Litigation, seeking redress for over 100,000 Ukrainian nationals paroled into the United States post-February 2022, today announces a significant advancement in their ongoing class action lawsuit against the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). IMMpact sued USCIS in August 2022 for failing to carry out provisions in the 2022 Ukraine supplemental which mandated Ukrainian parolees be provided automatic, free employment authorization. As a result of the litigation, USCIS changed its policy to recognize automatic work authorization in November 2022, but failed to refund unlawfully collected I-765 employment authorization document fees for applications received prior to that date. IMMpact filed a second suit in 2023 to recover those funds for 10s of 1000s of Ukrainians.

USCIS announced on April 24th that it is refunding all of the I-765 fees collected from Ukrainian parolees who entered as parolees after February 24, 2022.
<https://www.uscis.gov/U4URefund>

IMMpact is proud of its Ukrainian work authorization double victories – forcing USCIS in November 2022 to recognize automatic work authorization for parolees and yesterday’s USCIS announcement that it will fully refund all of the fees to the class on whose behalf we were suing.

“We are happy that we appear to finally have forced USCIS to comply with the will of Congress and follow the law. On the other hand, we are greatly disappointed these suits were even necessary, the agency had to be dragged into court to do the right thing, and it took them nearly two years to fix the problem.” - IMMpact counsel Greg Siskind.

“We are encouraged by USCIS's recognition of its responsibility to these Ukrainian parolees, which is a testament to the perseverance and resilience of our clients. However, our commitment remains steadfast to ensuring that every individual affected by this oversight is not only recognized but also compensated. We will now focus our efforts on

ensuring USCIS follows through with their promise to refund the unlawfully imposed I-765 fees.” – IMMpact counsel Jesse Bless

“USCIS should never have taken these people’s money. After stubborn resistance, we are happy to see them announce this important step and we remain committed to ensuring all unlawfully taken fees are returned.” – IMMpact counsel Aaron Hall

“USCIS is like America, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, it will do the right thing eventually, after trying everything else. Too bad it took suing them three times to get the only sane result.” – IMMpact counsel Chuck Kuck

For further information, updates on the lawsuit, or to schedule an interview with the legal team, please contact Greg Siskind via email at gsiskind@visalaw.com.

****About IMMpact Litigation:****

IMMpact Litigation is a collaboration of the firms Bless Litigation in Boston, Joseph & Hall in Denver, Kuck Baxter in Atlanta and Siskind Susser in Memphis.