



United States Department of State

*Medical Director
Department of State and the Foreign Service*

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 29, 2013

Office of Management and Budget
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Madame/Sir:

Pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 1320.13(a)(2), the Department of State's Office of Medical Services requests that OMB authorize the emergency processing of Forms DS-1843 and DS-1622.

Appointments to the Foreign Service cannot be made unless candidates have received appropriate medical clearances, and those clearances are dependent upon the medical information collected from candidates. Form DS-1843 collects the information that is needed to determine whether a candidate for a Foreign Service appointment can obtain the medical clearance that is a requirement of the appointment. Accordingly, this information collection is essential to the hiring process for the Foreign Service and critical to the mission of the Department of State. Additionally, the information collected in Forms DS-1843 and DS-1622 is used to provide and to update medical clearances for individuals who participate in the Department of State's Medical Program.

Form revisions are needed to clarify that the information collection is consistent with applicable authorities, including the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) (42 U.S.C. § 2000ff, Title II, and 29 C.F.R. Part 1635). In particular, the Forms' questions concerning family medical history and genetic tests (which are not used for appointment purposes) are being removed. Additionally, the Forms are being amended to include GINA's "safe harbor" language, instructing those who are completing the Forms that they should not provide genetic information, as defined by GINA.

The Department of State's Office of Medical Service requests emergency OMB approval to modify the collection process as needed to ensure consistency with statutory and regulatory obligations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary D. Penner".

Gary D. Penner, M.D.
Medical Director
U.S. Department of State