



## Memorandum

TO: Richard Revesz  
Administrator,  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs,  
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Eric Hysen  
DHS Chief Information Officer

FROM: Samantha Deshommes  
USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy,  
Chief Regulatory Officer

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency OMB Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Clearance – Form I-131, Application for Travel Document

**Purpose:** USCIS is requesting emergency approval of USCIS Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, which is a revision of a currently approved information collection. USCIS is seeking approval for this collection of information under 5 CFR 1320.13.

**Background:** Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) provides the Secretary of Homeland Security with the discretionary authority to parole noncitizens into the United States temporarily, under such reasonable conditions that the Secretary may prescribe, on a case-by-case basis for “urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.” *See* INA sec. 212(d)(5)(A), 8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(A); see also 6 U.S.C. 202(4) (charging the Secretary with the responsibility for “[e]stablishing and administering rule...governing...parole”). To support this effort, DHS has created the Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) program with a streamlined process that allows certain individuals from Afghanistan and their immediate family members to come to the United States temporarily as parolees for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. The process currently applies to OAW parolees applying for an initial period of parole and filing an I-765, Application for Employment Authorization to receive a Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD). With this emergency revision, the Form I-131 is being revised to offer OAWs from

Afghanistan seeking a new period of parole, the automatic creation of an EAD by only submitting a Form I-131. They will not be required to file a Form I-765 for an EAD. USCIS will also exempt them from paying the EAD filing fee. DHS will use Form I-131 to determine if the applicant is approved for a new period of parole and approved for an EAD.

**Discussion:** To support the expanded efforts and make the collection more flexible, DHS has revised this information collection to streamline processing for reparole and EAD creation for both OAW parolees and USCIS operations.

DHS requests emergency approval because the delay associated with the normal information collection request clearance process would harm the public interest. The approved parole period and employment authorization will expire for approximately 35,000 OAW parolees in late July 2023. USCIS expects that the vast majority of these parolees will not want or be prepared to leave the United States at that time. Afghanistan continues to experience significant political, economic, humanitarian, security challenges and political instability. Its citizens are subject to endemic, indiscriminate violence imposed by the criminal organizations. Therefore, DHS and USCIS require a streamlined process for the grant of a new parole period to be in place so the subject parolees can avoid becoming out of parole and employment authorized status.

Delaying the information collection approval would be contrary to the public interest because it could result in the expiration of approved parole and loss of employment for tens of thousands of Afghan parolees.

USCIS seeks emergency processing of both the Form I-131 information collection packages in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.13. USCIS certifies that the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13(a) are met and that:

- The collection of information is needed immediately and is essential to the mission of the agency.
- The use of normal clearance procedures is reasonably likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information.
- Public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed.

USCIS greatly appreciates the timely consideration of this request.

**Recommendation:** Please sign decision memo requesting emergency approval of this collection of information under 5 CFR 1320.13.