

March 26, 2014

USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas;

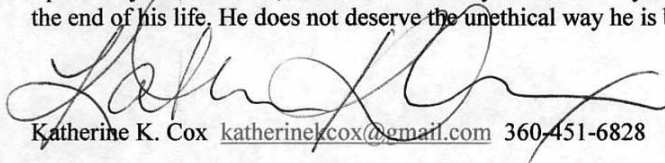
My name is Katherine "K.T." Cox, and I write this letter as a testament to the good moral character of Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry (A#: 078 490 278). I additionally write this letter to urge you to put an end to this nonsensical witch hunt that has been going on against Zahid for way too long, and I pray your actions will ensure that my dear friend will continue to reside in the USA—as he is rightfully entitled to US citizenship on several counts.

I have known Zahid and his wife Ann for about 4 years now. While I was interning at a nonprofit organization that aids the welfare of our American soldiers and veterans. I was especially moved by Zahid's immigration plight and assisted with PR writing to aid the mission to "Keep Zahid Home" and have since worked along side many other supporters of the Olympia community and world-wide to spread the word of USCIS's unjust treatment in his case. I have been to his court hearings in Seattle and met Senator Maria Cantwell with them on this same immigration matter. I have watched them fight this injustice with great strength and courage while still maintaining a positive and hopeful spirit, all the while extending help to others in need throughout the community—such as myself. For one example, when I came back from China having been through one of the most traumatic experiences to date, my life was completely turned upside down. Zahid and Ann helped me get back on my feet and righting my perspective with wisdom, love, care, advice and so much more, which was a huge unexpected act of kindness. Words cannot express how much their love and guidance means to me; may it serve as one of many examples that illustrate Zahid's great character.

I've come to know Zahid (and Ann) as close friends and mentors. We share meals with close friends or attend social occasions together, depending on Zahid's health and my busy schedule. The love and wisdom Zahid and Ann extended as our elders is deeply felt and appreciated, as other letters will testify. I have even gone so far to say that I think of Zahid as a second father; my biological father and I don't have a relationship, and this has scarred me for many years. Zahid has shown me a positive male role model in my life and gives me the love, support, acceptance and guidance I have always wanted and needed to feel whole, and his encouragement is indefinitely shaping the amazing young woman I aspire to be.

I could go on for pages elaborating on how dear Zahid and Ann are to me, but furthermore it is important that these undisputed facts are addressed. Ultimately these facts justify why the Chaudhrys (because to deport one, is to deport the other) deserve to remain and reside in Olympia where they have rebuilt their life, and are loved members of our community; Zahid served in the U.S. military and is a decorated disabled veteran with multiple honorable discharges, who is now wheelchair bound. He is entitled to citizenship at the very least for his dedicated service to our country. He has been legally married to a U.S. citizen for over 13 years; by law he is entitled to citizenship after 3 years of marriage. He has never committed any crimes or felonies—he has never even gotten a traffic ticket. Any allegation/s that took place in another country (Australia) should not have any bearing on his citizenship in this country. The Chaudhrys are valued and highly respected members of the Olympia community. America could not ask for a better upstanding, valuable community member and candidate for citizenship in the United States than Zahid. To deny Zahid citizenship is illegal, immoral, unfair and disgraceful. We know of the CARRP policy against Muslim immigrants, as exposed by the ACLU: "Under a previously unknown program called the "Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program" (CARRP), the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services uses [mandatory] discriminatory criteria to single out people from the Muslim community, and instructs immigration officers to find pre-textual reasons to deny them rights such as U.S. citizenship, asylum and legal residency."

I plea for you to end this, and to let Zahid stay in this country that he loves the most; has served nearly unto the end of his life. He does not deserve the unethical way he is being treated.



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