

July 14th, 2017

Judge Paul deFonzo
Immigration Court
1000 Second Ave, Suite 2500
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Judge Paul deFonzo,

My name is Elissa Goss and I have known Zahid since 2009 in Olympia, Washington when I was in college. I met through various volunteer opportunities and have always witnessed his selflessness, humor and community service. Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry is a decorated disabled U.S. Army veteran who sustained injuries while serving in the US military as part of the National Guard. These injuries have left him permanently in a wheelchair. His wife Ann is by his side at all times; they are inseparable.

The idea of Ann losing Zahid is incomprehensible and heartbreaking. She will be devastated! I believe it is tortuous to have an American citizen's husband, who has a green card, be stripped away as they enter the time of their lives where they should be able to live in peace as parents, grandparents and community members.

Even the U.S. government admits that Zahid meets all the requirements for naturalization as a military veteran. Mr Chaudhry has volunteered thousands of hours serving the community in various ways. Last but not least, Mr. Chaudhry qualifies for US citizenship based on the fact that he is married to a US citizen; Zahid and Ann have been married over 16 years.

Please consider not only his wife Ann, but all of us who have benefitted from his volunteer and military service. My grandfather didn't serve in the military so that another soldier could be deported. My mother didn't serve in the Navy so that my friend could live in fear. They served so that we all can live in peace. Zahid helped create peace through his military service.

Thank you!



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