

An Open Letter Urging Immigration Reform for the Stepchildren of US Citizens

April 23, 2009

There are so many big things wrong with US immigration policy that it can be easy to overlook smaller injustices. But it is just wrong to deport the stepchild of a US citizen because they kept having birthdays during the often years-long wait for their legal immigration visa.

No one intended for the law to be so mindless. Most Americans are surprised that our immigration laws so directly contradict our values, as well as common sense. There is no national interest in aging stepchildren out of their legal immigration status. The numbers of such cases are small compared to other immigration categories, but for each blended family who falls into this gap between our values and our immigration laws, the consequences can literally be the destruction of the family, ironically because they obeyed the law.

Aging out of other family immigration categories were resolved by the Child Status Protection Act which President Bush signed into law in 2002. That the stepchildren of US citizens were not incorporated into the new law has been universally acknowledged to have been an oversight.

So we the undersigned urge the US Congress to enact reform of the K-2 visa for the stepchildren of US citizens when the Reuniting Families Act is reintroduced.

Sincerely,

American Families United

Ellen Somekawa, Executive Director
Asian Americans United

Asian Law Caucus

Bonilla Community Services

Jim Babka, President
DownsizeDC.org

Alan Reuther, Legislative Director
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)

Justice Through Music

The Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Liberty Coalition

The Multiracial Activist

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

National Council of La Raza

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

Dane vonBreichenruchardt, President
U.S. Bill of Rights Foundation

John & Carol Whitehead
Rutherford Institute

Velvet Revolution