

Written Statement of Gilbert Loredó,

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship
Hearing “‘Why Don’t They Just Get in Line?’ Barriers to Legal Immigration”

April 28, 2021

Thank you, Subcommittee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren, (D-CA), Ranking Member Tom McClintock (R-CA), and members of the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship for this opportunity to submit this written statement in support of the American Families United Act, which would address barriers to legal immigration for spouses and children of U.S. citizens. I would especially like to thank my Congresswoman, Representative Veronica Escobar, for introducing this bill.

My name is Gilbert Loredó. I am a U.S. citizen and I currently live with my wife and kids in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. My kids and I made the difficult decision to leave our wonderful country. My wife's immigration petition was denied at her consular interview in Mexico in 2019. At that moment, my family was torn apart, even though we went through all the proper immigration processes. My wife crossed the border at the age of 14 (over 17 years ago). She has been charged with a False Claim to US Citizenship. My wife was only a minor when she answered *yes* to the question *Are you a US citizen?*. Currently, we are being denied the right for an immigration judge to review our case since our immigration interviewer issued ‘inadmissibility to entering the United States’, barring her for life with no access to a waiver or forgiveness. I am proud to be an American. My father fought for this country. I have no family in Mexico nor do I speak the language. I will never forget that day, having to leave my wife in Mexico, and go back to Oklahoma to try to break the news to my kids that ‘mommy was not coming home’. My kids had to say goodbye to their friends and family and all they had ever known in the US to go live in Mexico.

After living apart for over a year and a half, hoping to fight and find a lawyer that would take my family's case, it started to get harder and harder to see my family. I finally chose to make the move to Mexico. Americans should have the right to keep their families together. We should at the very least have the right to have our day in court, our chance to tell our story, our chance to fight to keep our families together. That is why I want to thank Congresswoman Veronica Escobar from the bottom of our hearts for introducing the American Families United Act and giving U.S. citizens a fighting chance to keep our families together. By this action, you are showing, not only me and my family- but our fellow Americans- that American families matter and that we should have the right to fight, to plead our case, and to keep our families together.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Loredó