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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
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NOV 25 2009

FILE:



Office: MEXICO CITY (CIUDAD JUAREZ)

Date:

CDJ 2004 722 016 (relates)

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under Section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. Please refer to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 for the specific requirements. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$585. Any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen, as required by 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i).

Perry Rhew

Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The waiver application was denied by the District Director, Mexico City, Mexico, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record reflects that the applicant is a native and citizen of Mexico who was found to be inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(i)(II), for having been unlawfully present in the United States for more than one year and seeking readmission within 10 years of his last departure from the United States. The record indicates that the applicant is married to a United States citizen and he is the beneficiary of an approved Petition for Alien Relative (Form I-130). The applicant seeks a waiver of inadmissibility pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v), in order to reside in the United States with his United States citizen wife and children.

The District Director found that the applicant failed to establish that extreme hardship would be imposed on the applicant's spouse and denied the Application for Waiver of Grounds of Excludability (Form I-601) accordingly. *Decision of the District Director*, dated February 16, 2007.

On appeal, the applicant, through counsel, states the applicant's wife "will suffer extreme hardship due to [the applicant's] continued inadmissibility." *Form I-290B*, filed March 20, 2007.

The record includes, but is not limited to, letters from the applicant's wife and mother-in-law, a letter from [REDACTED] regarding a medical procedure performed on the applicant's wife, and a letter from [REDACTED] regarding the applicant's employment in the United States. The entire record was reviewed and considered in arriving at a decision on the appeal.

Section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Act provides, in pertinent part:

(B) Aliens Unlawfully Present.-

- (i) In general.-Any alien (other than an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence) who-
 -
 - (II) has been unlawfully present in the United States for one year or more, and who again seeks admission within 10 years of the date of such alien's departure or removal from the United States, is inadmissible.
 -
- (v) Waiver.-The Attorney General [now the Secretary of Homeland Security, "Secretary"] has sole discretion to waive clause (i) in the case of an immigrant who is the spouse or son or daughter of a United States citizen or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if it is established to the satisfaction of the [Secretary] that the refusal of admission to such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such alien.

The AAO notes that the record contains several references to the hardship that the applicant's children would suffer if the applicant were denied admission into the United States. Section 212(a)(9)(B)(i) of the Act provides that a waiver, under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act, is applicable solely where the applicant establishes extreme hardship to his citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent. Unlike a waiver under section 212(h) of the Act, Congress does not mention extreme hardship to United States citizen or lawful permanent resident children. In the present case, the applicant's wife is the only qualifying relative, and hardship to the applicant's children will not be considered, except as it may cause hardship to the applicant's wife.

In the present application, the record indicates that the applicant initially entered the United States in January 1996 without inspection. On November 18, 2002, the applicant's United States citizen wife filed a Form I-130 on behalf of the applicant. On July 7, 2004, the applicant's Form I-130 was approved. In January 2006, the applicant departed the United States. On January 23, 2006, the applicant filed a Form I-601. On February 16, 2007, the District Director denied the Form I-601, finding that the applicant accrued more than a year of unlawful presence and he failed to demonstrate extreme hardship to his United States citizen spouse.

The applicant accrued unlawful presence from April 1, 1997, the date of enactment of unlawful presence provisions under IIRIRA, until January 2006, the date the applicant departed the United States. The applicant is attempting to seek admission into the United States within 10 years of her January 2006 departure from the United States. The applicant is, therefore, inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(9)(B)(II) of the Act for being unlawfully present in the United States for a period of more than one year.

A section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) waiver of the bar to admission resulting from section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act is dependent first upon a showing that the bar imposes an extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of the applicant. Hardship the applicant himself experiences upon removal is irrelevant to a section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) waiver proceeding. Once extreme hardship is established, it is but one favorable factor to be considered in the determination of whether the Secretary should exercise discretion. *See Matter of Mendez*, 21 I&N Dec. 296 (BIA 1996).

In *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. 560, 565-66 (BIA 1999), the Board of Immigration Appeals (Board) provided a list of factors it deemed relevant in determining whether an alien has established extreme hardship to a qualifying relative. The factors include the presence of a lawful permanent resident or United States citizen spouse or parent in this country; the qualifying relative's family ties outside the United States; the conditions in the country or countries to which the qualifying relative would relocate and the extent of the qualifying relative's ties in such countries; the financial impact of departure from this country; and significant conditions of health, particularly when tied to an unavailability of suitable medical care in the country to which the qualifying relative would relocate.

In a letter dated March 13, 2007, the applicant's wife states her son, "loves to spend time with [the applicant].... [The applicant's] absence has been extremely difficult. [She] [has] noticed many

changes in [REDACTED], he has a difficult time listening to [her] and doing what [she] ask[s] him to do.” The applicant’s wife further states that her son, [REDACTED] “is always asking for [the applicant].” In an undated letter, the applicant’s mother-in-law states the applicant’s “children cry for [the applicant], they ask for him every morning and night.” The AAO notes that the applicant’s children may experience hardship in relocating to Mexico; however, the applicant’s children are not qualifying relatives for a waiver under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act. The applicant’s wife states because of her health, she has not been back to Mexico to visit the applicant. Additionally, the applicant’s wife states “[b]ecause of [her] pregnancy and [her] health problems [she] [has] been unable to work.” The AAO notes that other than [REDACTED] statement regarding the applicant’s wife cesarean section on February 21, 2007, there is no medical documentation in the record establishing that the applicant’s wife suffers from any medical conditions. The applicant’s wife states “[s]ince returning from Mexico, [she] [has] been very depressed.... [She] [is] lonely and alone.” The AAO notes that other than the applicant’s wife’s statement, there are no professional psychological evaluations for the AAO to review to determine how the separation from the applicant is affecting the applicant’s wife mentally, emotionally, and/or psychologically. The applicant’s wife states she and the applicant always “talked of [her] staying at home to take care of [their] kids while he worked.” The AAO notes that the applicant’s wife is a native and citizen of the United States and she may experience some hardship in relocating to Mexico; however, it has not been established that she has no transferable skills that would aid her in obtaining a job in Mexico and that there are no employment opportunities for her there. Additionally, the AAO notes that it has not been established that the applicant’s wife does not speak Spanish and has no family ties in Mexico. The AAO finds that the applicant failed to establish that his wife would suffer extreme hardship if she joined him in Mexico.

In addition, counsel does not establish extreme hardship to the applicant’s wife if she remains in the United States, in close proximity to her family. The applicant’s mother-in-law states her daughter lived in Mexico but “that’s not the life for her and three boys, they belong here in the U.S.” The applicant’s wife states it was difficult to reside in Mexico because she was pregnant and her son, [REDACTED] could not enroll in school. As a United States citizen, the applicant’s wife is not required to reside outside of the United States as a result of denial of the applicant’s waiver request. The applicant’s wife states “[i]t is very difficult to support two households. One here in the United States for [herself] and one in Mexico.” Additionally, the applicant’s wife states she is “unable to provide for [her] three children alone.” The AAO notes that the record fails to demonstrate that the applicant will be unable to contribute to his family’s financial wellbeing from a location outside of the United States. Moreover, the United States Supreme Court has held that the mere showing of economic detriment to qualifying family members is insufficient to warrant a finding of extreme hardship. *INS v. Jong Ha Wang*, 450 U.S. 139 (1981).

United States court decisions have repeatedly held that the common results of deportation or exclusion are insufficient to prove extreme hardship. See *Hassan v. INS*, 927 F.2d 465, 468 (9th Cir. 1991). For example, in *Matter of Pilch*, 21 I&N Dec. 627 (BIA 1996), the Board held that emotional hardship caused by severing family and community ties is a common result of deportation and does not constitute extreme hardship. In addition, *Perez v. INS*, 96 F.3d 390 (9th Cir. 1996), held that the common results of deportation are insufficient to prove extreme hardship and defined extreme hardship as hardship that was unusual or beyond that which would normally be expected upon deportation. In *Hassan, supra*, the

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held further that the uprooting of family and separation from friends does not necessarily amount to extreme hardship but rather represents the type of inconvenience and hardship experienced by the families of most aliens being deported.

A review of the documentation in the record fails to establish the existence of extreme hardship to the applicant's spouse caused by the applicant's inadmissibility to the United States. Having found the applicant statutorily ineligible for relief, no purpose would be served in discussing whether he merits a waiver as a matter of discretion.

In proceedings for application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Act, the burden of proving eligibility remains entirely with the applicant. *See* section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. Here, the applicant has not met that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.