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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
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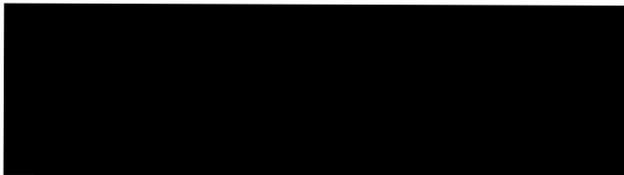
Applicant:



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 child.

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 December 4, 2007.

On appeal, the applicant's wife states she and her son are suffering by being apart from the applicant. *See letter from [REDACTED]* dated October 11, 2006.

The record includes, but is not limited to, letters from the applicant's wife, family, and friends; and a letter from [REDACTED] regarding the applicant's wife's health condition. 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 son 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 son 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 April 2000 without inspection. On July 24, 2002, the applicant's United States citizen wife filed a Form I-130 on behalf of the applicant. On September 15, 2003, the applicant's wife filed another Form I-130 on behalf of the applicant. On July 12, 2004, the applicant's second Form I-130 was approved. On September 10, 2005, the applicant's first Form I-130 was approved. On October 8, 2006, the applicant departed the United States. On October 25, 2006, the applicant filed a Form I-601. On December 4, 2007, the District Director denied the Form I-601, finding that the applicant accrued more than a year of unlawful presence and failed to demonstrate extreme hardship to his United States citizen spouse.

The applicant accrued unlawful presence from April 2000, the date the applicant entered the United States without inspection, until October 8, 2006, the date the applicant departed the United States. The applicant is attempting to seek admission into the United States within 10 years of his October 8, 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 May 29, 2007, [REDACTED] states the applicant's wife has "become withdrawn and not very communicative." In a letter dated May 30, 2007, the applicant's wife's parents state the

applicant's wife and son "are feeling really stressed with [the applicant] being away from them." In a letter dated June 6, 2007, [REDACTED] states the applicant's wife and son are stressed. [REDACTED] further states that "[i]t is [her] opinion that increased stress from the loss of [the applicant] could cause anxiety, insomnia, decreased appetite and weight loss." The AAO notes that other than statements from [REDACTED] and the applicant's wife's friends and family, 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. In a letter dated June 1, 2007, [REDACTED]

states the applicant's son has gone through an "emotional change... [The applicant's son] **appears to be stressed and unsure of himself.**" [REDACTED] further states that she is "concerned that [the applicant's son's] separation from [the applicant] is affecting his emotional well-being and his developmental progress at preschool." In a letter dated October 11, 2006, the wife states her "son will desperately miss [the applicant].... [She] also fear[s] that [her] son will be traumatized without [the applicant's] presence." The AAO notes that the applicant's son may be experiencing some hardship in being separated from the applicant and he may experience hardship in relocating to Mexico; however, he is not a qualifying relative for a waiver under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act. The AAO notes that the applicant's wife is employed as a server in a restaurant, and 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 or that she 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, maintaining her employment. The applicant's wife states she has "thought about moving to Mexico...and [she] just realized that it will not be an option for [their] family." The AAO notes that 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 AAO notes that the record fails to demonstrate that the applicant will be unable to contribute to his wife'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.