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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
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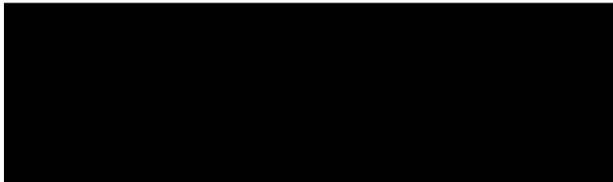
IN RE:

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 stepchildren.

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 November 31, 2006.

On appeal, the applicant, through counsel, claims that the applicant's wife "will suffer extreme hardship if [the applicant] [is] not allowed to enter the United States as a legal permanent resident." *Form I-290B*, filed December 15, 2006.

The record includes, but is not limited to, counsel's appeal brief, an affidavit from the applicant's wife, various household bills and statements, and a letter from Santa Rosa Medical Center regarding the applicant's wife's medical 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 references to the hardship that the applicant's stepchildren 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 stepchildren will not be considered, except as it may cause hardship to the applicant's spouse.

In the present application, the record indicates that the applicant initially entered the United States on August 30, 1992 without inspection. On March 15, 2004, the applicant's naturalized United States citizen wife filed a Form I-130 on behalf of the applicant. On August 9, 2004, the applicant's Form I-130 was approved. In January 2006, the applicant departed the United States. On January 31, 2006, the applicant filed a Form I-601. On November 17, 2006, 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 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 his 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.

Counsel states that the applicant's wife "has a career in the United States, [and] a vested pension." *Appeal Brief*, page 4, dated December 6, 2006. The AAO notes that there was no documentation in the record establishing that the applicant's wife has a vested pension. In an affidavit dated December 7, 2006, the applicant's wife states that she is "working two jobs to make ends meet." The AAO notes that the applicant's wife may experience some hardship in relocating to Mexico, a country in which she has no previous ties; however, it has not been established that there are no employment options for her in Mexico or that she has no transferable skills that would aid her in obtaining a job in Mexico. Counsel states that the applicant's wife is pregnant with the applicant's child and her "medical condition due to her pregnancy...is paramount in any determination of hardship." *Appeal Brief, supra* at 8. The AAO notes that there was no documentation in the record establishing that the applicant's wife is pregnant. The applicant's wife states she has "medical and psychological problems such as depression and serious malaise." In a letter dated December 5, 2006 from Santa Rosa Medical Center, a doctor states the applicant's wife "has multiple medical problems including, HTN (high blood pressure) and severe depression.... It appears that part of the problem is the fact that [the applicant's wife] cannot manage her affairs without [the applicant] and this has caused severe depression." The doctor prescribed the applicant's wife several medications to help her depression. The AAO notes that other than statements from counsel, the applicant's wife, and the Santa Rosa Medical Center, there are no professional psychological evaluations for the AAO to review to determine if the applicant's wife is suffering from any depression or anxiety or whether any depression and anxiety is beyond that typically experienced as a result of the removal and/or inadmissibility of a family member. Additionally, the AAO notes that there was no documentation submitted establishing that the applicant's wife could not receive treatment for her medical conditions in Mexico or that she has to remain in the United States to receive treatments.

The applicant's wife states the applicant taught her children morals and values, and without the applicant she "would not be able to care for the children." Additionally, the applicant's wife states her children do not speak Spanish. The AAO notes that the applicant's wife's oldest child is twenty-two years old. Additionally, the AAO notes that the applicant's stepchildren may experience some hardship in relocating to Mexico; however, the applicant's stepchildren are not qualifying relatives for a waiver under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act. Furthermore, the AAO notes that the applicant's wife speaks Spanish and it has not been established 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, the applicant does not establish extreme hardship to his wife if she remains in the United States, maintaining her employment. 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 they purchased a home "last year, and [she] [is] having difficulty making the mortgage payment and taking care of the children." In a letter dated December 6, 2006, [REDACTED] states the applicant's wife borrowed money from her "in order to save her home from foreclosure." The AAO notes that it has not been established that the applicant is unable to obtain employment in order to help support his family, or that he is 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.