

From: Patrick Owens <patrick.owens9@icloud.com>

Date: January 26, 2022 at 9:28:45 PM EST

To: ellen_kinker@portman.senate.gov

Subject: Hardship

Senator Portman,

I am Lead Pastor of Fairfield Church of God in Fairfield, Ohio. Several years ago, I served as pastor to Dennis Geier who has for sometime now been seeking assistance from your office to relocate he and his family from China to the USA. It became essential for he and his son to move prior to the wife/mother while awaiting her approval to follow them.

Dennis, himself, had and continues to struggle with health/heart issues that are best treated here in the US with Drs familiar with his health history. Currently, his physician feels he has a life-threatening issue and has directed him to go in the hospital for a minimum of 3 days or risk dying. Either scenario leaves him in a position, as a single parent, of not having his spouse and co-parent present to care for their child. Even under the best circumstance, without his wife present, the child is at risk of entering state custody when he has 2 parents who love him and are capable of providing a safe and loving home environment. Their obstacle to doing this seems to be red tape that does not see the value of a 2 parent, loving home where a husband and wife support one another and provide care for the child they both love. While child services is an important service: 1) Child Services' burden would be lightened if this situation and others like it were addressed by expediting helping qualified, willing, safe parents jointly parent their children, 2) The known stress and traumatic impact of unnecessary separation from the family unit of a small child and his parents would be avoided. 3) the likelihood/risk of a child entering the system and being lost to both parents unnecessarily will be avoided. #3 is a very real possibility if dad is hospitalized or dies without the mother present.

Please consider my request to use the resources of your office and those known to you to bring this good man and Ohio citizen's and his beloved innocent young child's mother to their side where she belongs. Not to mention, the mother, on the other side of the globe, anxiously awaiting her reunion with her family and the same concerns of never seeing them again due to delay.

Dennis has put his health and life at risk, awaiting this decision. Besides a beautiful, warm family reunion, please understand that a child's well-being and a parent's life is being impacted by action or inaction on this matter.

Thank You,
Patrick D. Owens
513-614-9008

Sent from my iPhone