

Hardship Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am writing this letter in support of my husband, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], as part of his I-601A Waiver Application. I want to share the deep and genuine hardship my family and I would endure if Carlos were forced to leave the United States or if we were required to relocate to his home country of Mexico.

Early Life Background

I was born in [REDACTED], and lived there for the first two years of my life before my parents decided to relocate to [REDACTED], where I have lived ever since. [REDACTED] was born in Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico. His early life was very difficult, as he witnessed his father emotionally and physically abuse his mother. Experiencing this trauma at such a young age had a profound effect on him. Recognizing that this environment was not healthy, his mother made the brave decision to move to the United States to protect herself and her children. During that time, [REDACTED] grandfather cared for him and his siblings in Mexico. About a year later, [REDACTED] joined his mother in the United States to begin a new life with his family, leaving behind the challenges of his early childhood.

Our Life Together

[REDACTED] and I met in high school in 2011 in our math class with Mr. Suba. What started as a friendship quickly grew into something more. In that class, our classmates had a playful tradition of giving each other nicknames. [REDACTED] was affectionately called "Torta," (Mexican sandwich), which always made everyone laugh. One day, after walking me to my P.E. class, he nervously

asked if I wanted to be “Ms. Torta.” I laughed, but I also knew in my heart that this was the beginning of something very special. That was the moment I truly knew he was the one.

Our relationship grew stronger with time, and in 2017 we welcomed our first daughter, [REDACTED]. Becoming parents for the first time was both beautiful and challenging. We endured many sleepless nights, but [REDACTED] never once left me to face those struggles alone. Even when he had only a few hours of rest, he stayed awake with me to care for [REDACTED] and provide support. When I struggled with postpartum emotions, [REDACTED] was my anchor. He comforted me, reassured me, and helped me through every challenge.

In 2019, our second daughter, [REDACTED], was born. I feared that having two young children so close in age would overwhelm me, but [REDACTED] stepped in completely. He helped with feedings, diapers, and late-night cries. He shared the responsibilities of parenting in every way, ensuring both girls were equally loved and cared for. His unwavering support during that time made me fall even more in love with him and confirmed that he is truly the best father and partner I could ever ask for.

[REDACTED] continues to be deeply involved in every aspect of our children’s lives. He packs their lunches, picks them up from school, takes them to swimming lessons and other activities, and ensures that both girls receive the love and attention they need. His presence is essential not just for their daily routines but for their emotional development and well-being.

Hardship to Me

The thought of being separated from Carlos fills me with overwhelming fear and sadness. He is my partner, my best friend, and my source of stability. He has been my support through some of the hardest moments of my life. When I lost my grandfather to COVID, I experienced deep emotional trauma. He was the one person who had always cared for me and guided me through difficult times. [REDACTED] stepped into that role after his passing, comforting me and helping me heal. Losing him now, even temporarily, would recreate that same fear and loneliness, leaving me without the emotional support I need to function daily.

Hardship to Our Children

Our oldest daughter, [REDACTED], was diagnosed with **mixed anxiety and depression** when she started kindergarten. She faced separation anxiety, bullying, and the shock of being away from us for extended periods. With therapy and consistent support from both me and [REDACTED], she has made significant progress in managing her symptoms. However, being separated from her father or being forced to relocate to a foreign country could trigger her anxiety and depression again, undoing the progress she has worked so hard to achieve. [REDACTED] has been integral to her healing—he attended her therapy sessions, reassures her every day, and reminds her that she is loved and protected.

Being separated from a parent can have serious and lasting effects on a young child's emotional and social development. It can cause anxiety, depression, and difficulties with trust or forming healthy relationships. Prolonged stress can also affect how the brain develops, making it harder for children to manage emotions, remember things, and feel safe. Both of our daughters would be deeply impacted if Carlos were not here with them.

Our youngest daughter, [REDACTED], is extremely attached to her father. She looks up to him as her protector, guide, and hero. Being apart from him would deeply harm her emotional well-being and security. Both girls have lived their entire lives in the United States, and this is their only home. Removing them from their father or uprooting them to Mexico would deprive them of stability, education, and safety, causing long-term emotional and psychological hardship.

[REDACTED] daily involvement ensures our children are nurtured, supported, and cared for at all times. Without him, I would not be able to provide the same level of care or stability, and our children would suffer greatly.

Financial Hardship

In addition to the emotional and psychological impact, separation from [REDACTED] would cause **severe financial hardship**. [REDACTED] is the **primary provider** for our family. He pays for our daughters' health insurance and dental coverage, as well as my own health insurance. He ensures our household bills are paid, that our daughters have proper nutrition, clothing, and school supplies, and that they can participate in essential activities such as swimming, and school programs.

Without [REDACTED] income, I would not be able to maintain the same standard of care for our children or myself. This would place us in a precarious financial situation, adding an additional layer of stress and hardship to an already emotionally difficult circumstance.

Our daughters' health and well-being are directly tied to [REDACTED] financial support, and without him here, I do not know how I would be able to provide for them in the same way.

Hardship if Forced to Relocate

Relocating to Jalisco, Mexico, would create severe and life-threatening risks for our family. Jalisco has one of the highest levels of **organized crime, kidnappings, targeted killings, and extortion in Mexico**. [REDACTED], control the majority of the region and have infiltrated local governments and law enforcement, creating a climate of impunity. Since 2018, over **15,000 people have disappeared** in the state, and violent crime, including murders and armed attacks, remains widespread. Even areas considered safe for residents or tourists have experienced shootings, kidnappings, and violent crime.

For example, according to CBS News, 34 bodies were discovered during construction work in Zapopan, Jalisco, an area severely affected by cartel violence. This highlights the extreme danger that residents, including children, face on a daily basis.

The U.S. State Department classifies the entire state of Jalisco, where Zapopan is located, as a Level 3 – Reconsider Travel due to risks of crime, terrorism, and kidnapping from criminal organizations. While areas such as the Guadalajara Metropolitan Area (including

Zapopan), Puerto Vallarta, and other locations have no travel restrictions for U.S. government employees, the advisory warns of risks such as violent clashes between criminal groups, potentially harming bystanders, and the possibility of targeted kidnappings. Travelers are advised to exercise extreme caution.

Living in this environment would expose my children and me to **extreme danger**, far beyond anything we have experienced in the United States. Our daughters have never been to Mexico and do not know the culture or language well enough to navigate it safely. They would be particularly vulnerable, and as a mother, the thought of raising them in such a high-risk environment is terrifying. Relocation would not only disrupt their education and stability but would place our very lives at risk.

Additionally, our daughters do not know the culture, school system, or language well enough to adapt effectively. Removing them from their home, community, and established support network would harm their education, development, and emotional health. Relocation would be extremely difficult for me as well, as our lives, support networks, and stability are all based here in the United States.

Conclusion

██████ is not just my husband—he is the heart and foundation of our family. He has been by my side since 2011, never letting us down, and has consistently protected, supported, and loved our daughters and me. Separation from him, or being forced to relocate to a dangerous and unfamiliar environment, would cause **extreme emotional, psychological, and financial hardship** for me and our children.

I respectfully request that you consider the serious impact that separating our family would have on our lives. ██████ presence is essential for the health, safety, and well-being of our daughters

and for my own stability. We sincerely hope that you will allow him to remain in the United States with our family, where he belongs.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]