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To: Whom It May Concern

Re: Recommendation of Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry for United States citizenship

I write this letter in support of Muhammad (Mr.) Zahid Chaudhry, native of Pakistan, disabled veteran of America's "Operation Iraqi Freedom," father, grandfather, and husband of Ann, generous community volunteer, and loyal friend. A proud American resident, he served our country in Texas, Oklahoma, California, and, finally, Washington, where, through the Washington Army National Guard, he was activated to fight America's war in Iraq. He served our country from 2001 until 2005 when he was honorably discharged, yet left with permanent service related disability. Zahid has not had a pain free day since his injuries while on duty. His sacrifice for our country has been great.

My name is Judith Lebens. I am fifty nine years old and was born and lived fifty years in Yakima, Washington, the community Zahid calls home. I have been a registered nurse for nearly forty years, a master's level social worker for thirteen years, and have recently completed a Master of Divinity from the Episcopal seminary in Berkeley, California. Although I continue part time work in both nursing and social work, I am now a full time hospital chaplain and aspirant for the Episcopal priesthood in the Episcopal Diocese of California.

I met Zahid and his wife, Ann, through mutual Yakima friends in 2004. I have always enjoyed the time I have spent with him and have found him to be extraordinarily friendly to everyone, intelligent and well read, and articulate. Although he suffers daily from extreme, debilitating migraines and back pain, he is consistently positive, sensitive and insightful, funny, and generous with his time and resources. He is a gentleman at all times and is clearly and lovingly committed to his wife and family.

As a social activist and professional in the human services field, I have a great appreciation for Zahid and the volunteer work he has done with the marginalized and those in Yakima who serve them. He has been a youth leader with Yakima's American Red Cross. He has volunteered, coordinating events for the Yakima Fire and Police departments and mentored officers and fire fighters who suffered job related injuries. Zahid became a certified Emergency Medical Technician, working with the Yakima Fire Department and taking on-call duties, responding to victims of residential fires. Zahid and his wife traveled to Portland, Oregon, to volunteer their time and skills, providing and fixing donated computers for Iraqi refugees. These computers would be used so they could learn necessary computer skills which enabled these people to get jobs and/or start

their own businesses. These folks are now productive members of American society and the Portland community because of Zahid's generosity and selflessness. After a friend salvaged a number of computers from a dumpster in Yakima, Zahid pieced together enough parts to provide computers for Native American students at White Swan, Washington's High School Agricultural Program and Small Engine Repair Shop. Most recently, he has donated his time and resources to repair and upgrade a computer which will enable a victim of domestic abuse to find work, become independent, and begin a new life. It is clear Zahid is a committed member of American society.

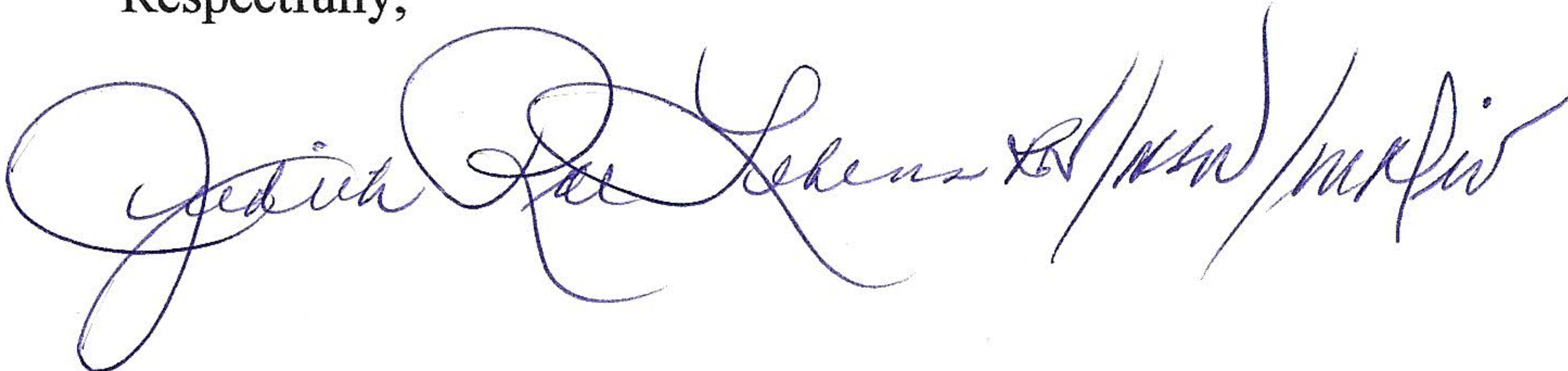
Knowledgeable of all the world's religions, Zahid is an active attendee of Yakima's First Presbyterian Church where he worships regularly with Ann, where he has many friends, and where he volunteers his time. He is known and loved by his pastors and his parish for the genuine beatitudinal life he leads. Christ said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). This is the life Zahid lives. This is the love Zahid unconditionally contributes to everyone with whom he comes in contact.

The foundation of American society is the family. Our government, our schools, our medical system, and our churches all stand on the platform of family values and the importance of family unity. As our current society ages and its social and medical systems fail, it will be essential that families remain together and care for one another. Should Zahid be forced to return to Pakistan, he and Ann will have to determine whether Ann will return with him, keeping their marriage intact, or whether Ann will remain in Yakima where she will continue to maintain her ties and responsibility to her family there. Either way, this loving, committed family will be fractured at the hands of the American government. This is the antithesis of American societal standards.

Deporting Zahid would be a travesty. It is essential that the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service consider the core values written in the United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence. These are the values Zahid has held dear serving in the United States Armed Forces and the citizens in the country he loves. He deserves to be treated as the humanitarian he is. America will never have an immigrant who will be more proud to become its citizen.

All I have said is heartfelt and true, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Rae Lebens RN/MSW/MDiv". The signature is written in a cursive style with large, flowing loops.

Judith Rae Lebens, RN, MSW, MDiv