

Jessica Bateman
1521 5th Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Honorable Judge Paul deFonzo,

I am writing this letter in support of Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry. Muhammad is a decorated disabled U.S. Army veteran, an active member of his community and loving husband who deserves to stay in the United States.


While serving honorably in the U.S. military as a part of the National Guard Zahid sustained injuries leaving him permanently in a wheelchair. Zahid is a valued member of the community and despite being confined to a wheelchair, still serves his community volunteering with the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and numerous organizations in Olympia, Washington where he lives now.

Mr. Chaudhry has not broken any US laws, he served honorably in the US Army; he has qualified for expedited citizenship based on Qualified Military service, which is usually expedited even for those people who came here illegally which Mr. Chaudhry did not.

Even the U.S. government admits that Zahid meets all the requirements for naturalization as a military veteran. Lastly, Mr. Chaudhry qualifies for US citizenship based on the fact that he is married to a US citizen; Zahid and Ann have been married over 16 years.

I am baffled by the apparent years long vendetta against Zahid unless this is yet another instance of government sanctioned discrimination against a member of the Muslim faith. Please, close this case and allow Mr. Chaudhry and his wife live out their lives within the community that they both serve. Anything else will be a grave injustice and contradict our democratic values.

Jessica Bateman



City of Olympia Councilmember