

October 14, 2017

2005 Eastside St NE
Olympia, WA 98506

Judge Paul deFonzo
Immigration Court
1000 Second Ave, Suite 2500
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Immigration hearing for Zahid Chaudhry

Dear Judge deFonzo:

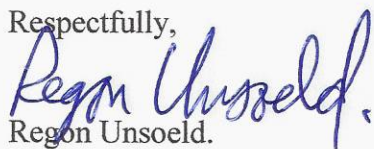
These are difficult times. There is a coarseness and a lack of civility in the land that emanates from, though is not limited to, the highest levels of public office. As a 30-year teacher of high school social studies, I saw rampant cynicism among our youth about the institutions of government in response to what they saw as the cynical and hard-hearted behavior of our nation's leaders. It is with this in mind that I write you today.

We saw during the presidential campaign calls by our now-president for a ban on entry into this country of people based on their national origin or religion. In the absence of needed immigration reform, we see families who for many years have lived in and contributed to this country torn apart by the detention and deportation of family members who have lived law-abiding lives and contributed much to our communities but lacked the necessary immigration papers to live here legally. And now we see the "dreamers," brought to this country by their parents as children, who have played by the rules, successfully completed school, and become contributing members of our workforce and our communities, once again being faced with the fear and uncertainty of possibly being deported to their country of origin that they have perhaps not known since childhood. There is a meanness to this that troubles me deeply.

I am appealing to you to use the powers of your position to take a stand for humanity, for decency, and for reconciliation by granting Zahid Chaudhry the legal ability to continue his life and his work in this country. I have known Zahid and Ann Chaudhry for many years and have been moved and inspired by Zahid's grace and dignity as a beloved leader in our community in a multitude of efforts to increase the levels of understanding and respect that people have for each other, especially those with whom they have strong disagreements.

I do not know the details of whatever has caused him to be the subject of this deportation action, but I do know the community-wide loss and harm that will be caused if such a kind and generous and inspiring person is torn from us.

Respectfully,


Regon Unsoeld.