

Declaration of Brenda Villarruel

I, Brenda Aniza Villarruel, upon my personal knowledge, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am a United States citizen by birth.
2. I currently live in Chicago, Illinois with my United States citizen biological son, and my United States citizen parents. I work part time as a medical assistant at [REDACTED] I earned my Medical Assistant Certificate on August 18, 2012. I have worked for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] since 2013.
3. My husband is a professional tattoo artist. We opened [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in June 2016. I work at the parlor to keep the business up and running in his absence. I started piercing professionally in July 2017 and tattooing in July 2018. I presently work at [REDACTED] with one (1) other artist trying to keep doors open awaiting my husband's return.
4. I do not have employer-provided health insurance. I do not have a general doctor. I use the services of Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness Program for reproductive health. They offer sliding scale clinic services based on income. Every time I go to the clinic, I pay only \$20.
5. I have sponsored an immigrant visa application for my husband, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], so that I can reunite with him here.
6. My husband is a national of Mexico, and currently resides in Mexico City, Mexico. I married my husband in 2016. My husband has been in Mexico since March 9, 2018.
7. I applied for my husband to come to the United States on or around July 1, 2016. The I-130 petition was approved on or around September 6, 2016.
8. Since then, my husband attended an initial IV interview at Ciudad Juarez on March 27, 2018. His visa was refused and we filed an I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility on December 17, 2018. It was approved on August 20, 2019 and my husband is scheduled to attend his IV interview on November 5, 2019 at 8:45 a.m. We are currently trying to reschedule his interview as we cannot meet the health insurance requirement. Unfortunately, the

online visa scheduling system had not provided interview dates for months and my husband has been trying to call from Mexico City to reschedule.

9. He was preparing for the interview when they received news of the October 4 Presidential Proclamation detailing the ban on their entry unless they will be covered by approved health insurance within 30 days of the alien's entry into the United States, or unless the alien possesses the financial resources to pay for reasonably foreseeable medical costs.
10. I have researched medical plans and inquired at work about policies that might meet the new requirement. I cannot receive coverage under an ACA plan for myself until January 1, 2020 and to my understanding, my husband does not qualify for an ACA plan until he has returned to the United States and I cannot show proof of that coverage before he gets here and can legally apply.
11. I have already been living apart from my husband for one (1) year and nine (9) months, and the separation has been exceptionally painful. I can only communicate with my husband through phone on a limited basis due to work and family obligations. As I mentioned my husband is a professional tattoo artist. He is the "main attraction" as an artist. He is known for his black and grey and traditional tattooing styles and hold a certificate in drawing from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Although some of our customers have gone to other artists due to the long wait for his return, we still have approximately 100 confirmed customers waiting to be specifically tattooed by my husband. I do not know how much longer I will be able to keep the business going.
12. I understand that under the new Proclamation I am indefinitely unable to reunite with husband. When I learned that our separation will be prolonged indefinitely, I felt absolutely devastated and that we are finally going to be wiped out financially. I cannot think we can keep a tattoo business open without the star tattoo artist.
13. My son, [REDACTED] stepson is extremely depressed. [REDACTED] has been the only father figure [REDACTED] has ever had. [REDACTED] was only four (4) years old when [REDACTED] and I met. He asks me constantly when [REDACTED] will be back. This additional delay has left him feeling hopeless and in despair.

14. I am American and my parents are originally from Mexico. My mother became a United States citizen before me or my three (3) siblings were born. My dad became a lawful permanent resident on the day I was born, [REDACTED] When I was in high school, I helped my dad study for his naturalization test. I believe that the purpose of the Proclamation is meant to prevent people like me and my family from emigrating to the United States and reuniting with family. The President's statements and views behind the immigration restrictions make me feel targeted for my family's ethnic and national origins and has caused me and my family considerable hardships, anxiety, and stress.

15. I am willing to serve as a class representative on behalf of those who are similarly situated to me and cannot have family members join them in the United States because of the current refugee restrictions.

16. I know that if the class is certified I will be representing more than just myself in this case. I have spoken with the lawyers who represent me about what being a class representative means. I want to help everyone in my situation because we are all suffering due to the unfair restrictions on refugee admissions imposed by this Administration.

I declare under penalty of perjury and under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Chicago, Illinois on October 29, 2019.

Brenda Villarruel
Brenda Villarruel

Sworn before me this 29th day of October 2019

Kiki M. Mosley
Notary Public
Commission Expires: 07/30/2022

