

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 14, 2004

Mr. Joe Meisenheimer
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Homeland Security
511 N.W. Broadway
Portland, OR 97209

Dear Mr. Meisenheimer:

This letter is to request your special consideration of the case of Carla Freeman, your reference A 78 853 352. She is seeking a green card through her marriage to Robert Glen Freeman, a U.S. citizen. Ms. Freeman met her husband while she was working as an au-pair in the U.S. She returned to South Africa, where he later proposed to her. The couple was married in February, 2001, in Chicago and she returned to South Africa, later returning to the U.S. where they filed an I-485 application to adjust status in September, 2001, in Chicago.

Several months later her husband was tragically killed in an automobile accident, just three weeks before their first anniversary. The petitioner unfortunately died with him. The law provides for a non-citizen spouse in such a case to petition on her own if the marriage was at least two years old at the time of the death of the petitioner. There is currently no provision in the law for a widow whose petition was not already approved to petition on her own if married less than two years. She is now facing the threat of being forced to leave the U.S. under the threat of deportation. Being forced to leave the country where she and her husband made their home would compound the pain of the premature loss of her husband and punish her unjustly.

We encourage you to explore whatever means possible to exercise prosecutorial discretion in this case and take no action to remove Ms. Freeman from the U.S. at this time.

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Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to and judicious consideration of this matter.

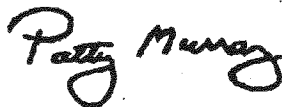
Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Gordon H. Smith



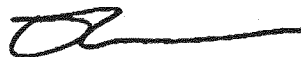
U.S. Senator Ron Wyden



U.S. Senator Patty Murray



U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer



U.S. Congressman David Wu