



Human Stories: One Day to Protect New Yorkers

Mr. Z

Mr. Z is a lawful permanent resident, green card holder, who came to the United States from Guyana almost 24 years ago. He is a hardworking individual who has been consistently employed, supporting himself and his 11-year-old daughter Ashley, a United States citizen. He has joint custody of Ashley and spends his weekends with her, going to Church together every Sunday.

Mr. Z also suffers from a serious health condition. In 2007, he suffered a debilitating stroke that left him temporarily paralyzed. Mr. Z requires ongoing treatment and has to rely on life-saving medications, which he would be unable to obtain in Guyana.

Mr. Z is currently facing deportation to Guyana for a single misdemeanor conviction that occurred almost a decade ago. It was his one and only contact with the criminal justice system. The offense involved the use of his girlfriend's credit card, and Mr. Z has always maintained that he had her permission to use it. If he is deported to Guyana, Mr. Z will not be able to receive proper medical care for his condition and, most importantly, Ashley will be forced to grow up without the father she has depended on all her life.

The One Day to Protect New Yorkers Act will protect Mr. Z against deportation and will prevent his separation from his loving daughter.

Mr. Q

As a teenager, Mr. Q legally immigrated to the United States from Senegal with a green card. He has lived here for a decade with his father and five of his siblings, all United States citizens, and his mother, who is also a green card holder. From the moment he arrived in the United States, Mr. Q has shown his commitment to becoming a contributing member of his community. He took English classes at the New York Language Center to quickly adapt to life in his new home and has always tried to work and make a living for his family and himself.

Five years ago, Mr. Q was arrested for selling handbags on the street. He was convicted of a misdemeanor for which he did not serve even a single day in jail. However, three years later, in 2012, he was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and is now facing deportation due to this misdemeanor conviction.

Mr. Q's entire world is in the United States. His biggest dream is to have his son join him here so that Mr. Q can raise him and the two can create a life together. Deporting Mr. Q for this single misdemeanor conviction would make this dream impossible and will devastate this tight knit American family.

The One Day to Protect New Yorkers Act will protect Mr. Q and allow him to pursue his dreams and create a future for himself and his young son in the United States.

Mr. P

Mr. P immigrated from Mexico 12 years ago and has been living in the United States ever since. He has a U.S. citizen son with his longtime partner who is also a U.S. citizen. His son suffers from asthma and needs continuous medical care. Mr. P plays a central role in his son's life, supporting him financially and emotionally. Mr. P also has a steady work history, working mostly in upscale Manhattan establishments, where he has always been highly esteemed and appreciated by his colleagues,

Mr. P has been living as an undocumented immigrant since he arrived in the United States. Because of his length of residence and his U.S. citizen son, he is, however, eligible to obtain a green card. The only thing holding him back is a single misdemeanor conviction—his only conviction. But for that conviction, Mr. P could obtain legal work authorization, allowing him to better provide for his family, and to place himself on the road to citizenship. Instead, because of the single misdemeanor conviction, he faces mandatory deportation and his family's stability hangs in the balance.

The One Day to Protect New Yorkers Act will allow Mr. P to apply for his green card, to prevent his deportation, and to stop living in constant fear that each time he kisses his son goodbye and goes to work, it could be the last time he sees him.

Ms. F

Ms. F has been living in the United States since she was three years old and has always considered herself to be an American. Although she was born in Jamaica, Ms. F has never returned there, and does not have any memories of the country or any meaningful connection with anyone that lives there.

Ms. F is now 27 and established a successful life for herself in the United States when she married her high school sweetheart and started a family with him. She also pursued higher education and established a professional career as the Assistant to the Director of a preschool in Brooklyn. Ms. F is currently pursuing an advanced degree in Early Childhood Education and Child Development at Touro College.

Ms. F was devastated when she found out that she does not have legal status in the United States. Ironically, when Ms. F took the affirmative act of trying to legalize her status, she was instead placed in removal proceedings, where she faced the very real possibility of being separated from her family. Further, a single misdemeanor conviction made Ms. F ineligible for an important relief that could have prevented her deportation by granting her legal status. Years after the commission and conviction of the misdemeanor offense, Ms. F was able to work with a DA to have the conviction vacated. Her immigration case was then closed and she was able to attain lawful status through DACA.

The One Day to Protect New Yorkers Act would prevent cases like Ms. F's, where individuals are forced back into already overburdened criminal courts years after a conviction in order to fight deportation and the harsh consequences of immigration law.