
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4041

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Clements, Skinner, Kenney, Hudgins, Santos and Hinkle

Read first time 01/28/2004. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO TOM RIDGE, SECRETARY OF
5 THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, AND TO EDUARDO AGUIRRE, JR.,
6 DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. BUREAU OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
9 represent and petition as follows:

10 WHEREAS, The plight of the Aganda family of Selah, Washington has
11 touched the hearts of citizens all over the state; and

12 WHEREAS, Tomas Aganda, his wife Judy Aganda, and their daughter
13 Jennylyn Aganda face concerted and repeated efforts by the United
14 States Government to deport this family back to the Philippines; and

15 WHEREAS, The Aganda family, including sons Herbie and Khmson and
16 daughter Stephanie, have been outstanding members of the Selah
17 community for over a decade; and

18 WHEREAS, The Aganda family lawfully entered this country on October
19 22, 1990, and shortly thereafter purchased a small laundry business in
20 the Selah community; and

1 WHEREAS, Judy Aganda's parents are United States citizens who live
2 in Yakima; and

3 WHEREAS, The Aganda family first sought an investor's visa so that
4 they could stay and contribute their energy and talents to this
5 community and Country, but were denied because the business was
6 considered too small to support the family; and

7 WHEREAS, The business is viable and has supported the family for
8 over a decade; and

9 WHEREAS, Judy Aganda has a cancerous growth at the base of her
10 skull that requires continued treatments that would not be available to
11 her in the Philippines; and

12 WHEREAS, United States District Court Judge Fred Van Sickle, in
13 granting a six-month stay of the deportation order, noted that the
14 United States Government's insistence on deporting Judy Aganda, in the
15 face of her life-threatening condition, was a "magnitude of
16 constitutional violation that is what I regard as a manifest
17 injustice"; and

18 WHEREAS, The protection of the six-month stay will end April 17,
19 2004, but the need for a compassionate and reasoned resolution of this
20 crisis remains;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
22 States Government end its concerted efforts to deport the Aganda family
23 and to instead provide them an opportunity to remain in this country,
24 especially in light of the fact that their daughter Stephanie, who is
25 a United States citizen, will be twenty-one years old in 2005 and will
26 then be able to file an immigrant visa for her parents; and

27 Further, That if the United States Bureau of Citizenship and
28 Immigration Services, acting in concert with the Department of Homeland
29 Security, is unwilling or unable to provide this compassionate relief,
30 then we call upon the members of our state's congressional delegation
31 to seek relief for the Aganda family through the passage of a private
32 bill of relief.

33 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
34 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
35 States, Tom Ridge, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security,
36 Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., Director of the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and
37 Immigration Services, the President of the United States Senate, the

1 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress
2 from the State of Washington.

--- END ---