

Dear Representative Tancredo –

With interest I have seen you participating in the recent NBC special “In the Shadow of the American Dream”. It seems obvious there are plenty of problems regarding illegal immigration, and immigrants of only particular nationality and skill sets, to the United States.

I would like to ask you for your opinion, and possibly help, in my own case. Please note that I have already contacted a variety of organizations, as well as the appropriate congress members from Wisconsin, who represent my daughter as a US citizen.

Originally from Communist East Germany, I have earned a Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee, and since I have worked in short-term postdoctoral positions at the University of Wisconsin under H1B visa. I have married another German scientist here, and we have an 18 months old daughter. Due to the downturn in research funding, and my former spouse’s better position granting her a path to a Green Card, our marriage fell apart related to my job insecurities. I have obtained, in a protracted legal battle, some custody to my daughter. However, I am now forced to leave the United States and try obtaining employment in Germany. This is for all practical means the end of my ability to see my daughter on any regular basis. She is a US citizen, and will stay with her mother here.

I would have done everything to stay here and support her, even work in unskilled positions, as a highly qualified Ph.D. However, the limitations of the H1B deny that to me. The one who will suffer the consequences is my child.

In this time of globalization, the effects on families in general often are bad, and divorces expected to be rising. Even nations that are allied have strict immigration laws, in effect minimizing globalization to a flow of money, goods, and jobs, but to a much lesser degree allow personal freedoms. The US is the only developed nation not even to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A logical extension of the problems with illegal immigrants is to allow highly qualified, legal, non-Latino immigrants, who may have children here, some way to stay, with some extended work visas with lesser restrictions. In my case, I was here for 9 years, with a flawless record. Cases where marriages and child births are done only to gain citizenship could easily be detected, or citizenship be ruled out in favor of just unrestricted legal work visas.

I trust that you will respond, and will include some of these thoughts in future legislation.

Sincerely

Dr. Dirk Krueger

CC: also sent to Tom Brokaw