

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
FIFTH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 7, 2018

Mr. Raymond Kovacic
Assistant Director
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St. SW, Mail Stop 5003
Washington, DC 20536-5003

Dear Mr. Kovacic:

It is with great concern that I write you today about the drastic and imminent effects of the deportation of Mr. Syed Ahmed Jamal. After reviewing Mr. Jamal's case, it is my understanding that there are compelling humanitarian reasons to favorably grant a motion for stay and for this difficult legal matter to be fully vetted in front of an immigration judge. As both a U.S. Representative and a Methodist minister, I believe that it is my moral and ethical responsibility to strongly support a favorable exercise of discretion for Mr. Jamal.

Mr. Jamal is the father of three United States citizens, ages 12, 14, and 17, and an integral part of his family, as his wife has a medical condition making him the sole provider. Prior to his arrest, Mr. Jamal was working as a chemistry professor at Park University. In addition, he was well respected within his community as a constant volunteer with his local school district and even ran to serve on their board of education. Mr. Jamal had been trying to comply with all federal immigration laws and tried to seek help throughout his 30 years within the United States. Additionally, Mr. Jamal is a highly educated man with degrees in molecular biosciences and pharmaceutical engineering and was working on a terminal degree in his field of study. If Mr. Jamal is deported, he will not only leave behind his U.S. based family, but because of Mr. Jamal's faith and beliefs, he could face persecution or death at the hands of extremists in his home country.

I am requesting that you immediately issue a stay for Mr. Jamal, return him to his wife and children and allow for the merits of this case be plead in front of an immigration judge. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important manner. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Manny Abarca, from my staff, at 816-842-4545.

Warmest regards,


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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