

DECLARATION OF ALI SHOJAIE

1 educational activities at UW help the United States maintain its position as the leader in
2 biomedical research, by providing tools for analyzing Biomedical Big Data, and
3 training the next generation of Biomedical Scientists.

4 4. I am a dual US/Iranian citizen.

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6 5. Three years ago, my younger sister was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This
7 was, of course, devastating news, and affected her life and other members of my
8 family. Being away from her, all I could do is to lend emotional support and to help
9 uplift her spirit as she battles MS. After three years of therapy, my sister has been
10 starting to feel better and I had planned for her to visit us in Seattle so that she can
11 spend time with her nieces, travel in the US and forget about her disease for a short
12 while. In fact, I had even prepared an invitation letter for my sister and she was
13 planning to get an appointment from the US embassy to apply for tourist visa.

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15 However, she will not have her visa by October 18, 2017. The new Visa Ban would put
16 an indefinite hold on all of these plans. As a result, it would limit my ability to play a
17 significant role in my sister's recovery! My siblings and I lost our father at a young age,
18 when I was in high school. Being the eldest, I have tried very hard to fill my father's
19 absence for my younger brother and sister over the years. Of course, being away from
20 them, my support has primarily been emotional in recent years. It is thus even more
21 disheartening to not be able to help my younger sister because of the proposed Visa
22 Ban. The Visa Ban would also limit the extent to which my two young daughters could
23 interact with their extended family. It would deprive them from much needed love that
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1 could only be provided by family members, and would limit their exposure to their
2 Iranian heritage.

3 6. As a faculty at UW School of Public Health, I have a demanding career. I also have two
4 young daughters, ages 4.5 and 2.5. As a result, I have very limited time to travel and
5 visit my family in Iran, particularly to take my daughters there so they can see their
6 extended family and learn about their culture. The Visa Ban would limit my ability to
7 interact with family members and help them when needed. Moreover, like any other
8 parent, I want my young daughters to be surrounded by family members as they
9 celebrate their accomplishments and milestones. The Visa Ban would thus also deprive
10 the next generation of Iranian-Americans from being able to benefit from the love and
11 support of their extended family members. I would have to consider all these
12 limitations and reassess my options as I continue my career at UW.
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16 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
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18 Executed on this 9th day of October, 2017

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21 Ali Shojaie
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