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The Honourable Chris Alexander, P.C., M.P.
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1

January 23, 2013
WATERLOO

RE: Mr. Deepan Budlakoti's Claim to Citizenship

Dear Minister Alexander,

I am writing in regards to the ongoing case of Mr. Deepan Budlakoti's claim to Canadian citizenship.

It is my understanding that Mr. Budlakoti was born in Ottawa and was issued an Ontario birth certificate. He has been raised in Canada, held a Canadian passport and has considered himself to be a Canadian citizen throughout the entirety of his life. At the age of 16 the Canadian government did not notify Mr. Budlakoti that it does not consider him a citizen which is the custom for non-citizens born and residing within Canada. Furthermore, you have received sworn testimony from Dr. Dehejia confirming that Mr. Budlakoti's parents had been working for him and not the Indian government for four months prior to and including the time of Mr. Budlakoti's birth. This information has been affirmed by the Indian High Commission.

Despite this the Canadian government has recently stated that it does not consider his citizenship legitimate and plans to deport him to India. His family lives in Canada and Mr. Budlakoti has never lived in India for any amount of time. Neither the Canadian government nor the Indian government is willing to recognize Mr. Budlakoti as a citizen, which will render him stateless.

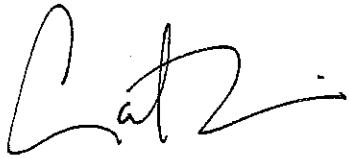
Canada signed and ratified the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, committing to acting in a manner that reduces the incidence of statelessness. This convention exists in recognition of the difficult limbo in which stateless people must seek to live. The actions of your Ministry have rendered Mr. Budlakoti stateless, directly in opposition to Canada's aforementioned position on statelessness.

Mr. Budlakoti's documents and case have been reviewed by numerous organizations including the Ontario Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association as well as Amnesty International and all organizations have found the stripping of Mr. Budlakoti's Canadian citizenship to be a great injustice.

I ask that you consider the strength of Mr. Budlakoti's supporting evidence without delay and resolve this case with both expediency and careful consideration.

I look forward to hearing your decision in this sensitive matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Fife', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Catherine Fife, MPP
Kitchener-Waterloo