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March 23, 2015

The Honourable Chris Alexander
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

I am appealing to you to use your Ministerial discretion to act on behalf of Mr. Deepan Budlakoti in Ottawa by recognizing his legitimate Canadian citizenship.

Mr. Budlakoti is well known to members of Unifor in Ottawa and we believe that he is entitled to Canadian citizenship. He was born in Canada and his parents are Canadian citizens. While he has had a troubled youth, he no longer has any charges against him and he poses no risk to the community.

It is particularly concerning to learn because of your actions in rendering him stateless, the provincial government has withdrawn Mr. Budlakoti's access to health care. I remind you that Mr. Budlakoti has lived his entire life in Canada and it strikes us as cruel and arbitrary to now deprive him of health care when he is undergoing a very stressful period in his life.

We recognize that immigration policy and law can be complex. However the situation of Mr. Budlakoti at the very least lands on a point of interpretation and in our view his claim for full citizenship is very strong. Moreover, a negative decision by Canada would leave Mr. Budlakoti stateless, and this would be a completely unacceptable outcome.

I am asking you to use your authority in the tradition of Canadian generosity and compassion, to provide relief and assistance to Mr. Budlakoti.

I would appreciate a considered reply from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jerry Dias
National President



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