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September 19, 1999

The Honorable Jane Hull
Governor of Arizona
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Honorable Governor Hull:

I am writing this letter as an American citizen who is battling some of the rules and regulations of INS. My hope is that you can provide some guidance or assistance in this matter.

I moved to Arizona in 1995 to pursue a Master's degree at Arizona State University. It was during this course of study that I met the love of my life, Fiona. Fiona is a British citizen, studying chemistry at ASU on an F-1 visa. We plan on getting married in Scotland, her home, this coming summer, June 2000. Our hope is to get married in Scotland, but live and grow old in America, but INS makes this very difficult.

We met with an immigration attorney, she told us that we would have to file a green card package, so that Fiona could live and work in our country. The only problem with this is that to start the package you must have a marriage certificate. We want to do the right thing and get married in a church, in the eyes of God, and this is what we have been planning to do in Scotland. However, we were informed that this is going to be a problem. If we go to Scotland and get married, Fiona may not be allowed to re-enter our country as my wife, without spending 6 months in Scotland while the paperwork processes. Our other option is to go to a justice of the peace in America, then process the paperwork and wait for permission to travel. This makes our church wedding irrelevant. Our families are very excited about our upcoming nuptials but have made it clear that if the ceremony is not the first and only, that they will not attend or help fund the wedding.

Since Fiona is working on her Ph.D., she obviously cannot take six months off to go home and wait for INS to process paperwork. Therefore, we are in a tough spot due to INS rules and regulations. We understand why the rules are in place but we are suffering because of other people's abuse of U.S. citizenship. Fiona and I have been together for 4 years and we are getting married because we love each other, not so Fiona can get citizenship in the U.S.

Is there anything you can do to help us? Isn't it bad enough that INS is going to charge us \$550 to process the paperwork, why can they prevent us from fulfilling our dreams? Thank you for your time in considering our situation and any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

