

EXHIBIT F

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE
CENTER, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

KENNETH T. CUCCINELLI II, in his
official capacity as Senior Official
Performing the Duties of the Director of
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
Services, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 20-cv-02363 (RBW)

DECLARATION OF MARIA FLORISELDA ALVAREZ GOMEZ

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and subject to penalty of perjury, I declare that the following is true and correct:

1. My name is Maria Floriselda Alvarez Gomez. I live in Manassas Park, Virginia, but I was born in El Salvador in 1971.
2. I fled El Salvador in 1995 because I was afraid of being physically abused or extorted by the many gangs that dominate that country and its governmental institutions and because I wanted a better life for myself and my family. I entered the United States on April 10, 1995.
3. When I entered the United States, I was detained by the immigration authorities and placed into deportation proceedings. My deportation case was moved from Texas to Arlington, Virginia and on April 16, 1996, an Immigration Judge in Arlington granted me voluntary departure. I did not leave but instead remained in the United States. As a result, it is my understanding that I received an order of deportation.

4. On March 9, 2001, El Salvador was designated as a country covered by the Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) program. Soon after I learned I was eligible for TPS, I applied for protection and for work authorization. I was granted TPS in 2001 and have held it to this day. TPS has allowed me to work legally in the United States and support my family.

5. I have extensive family ties to the United States and to the Commonwealth of Virginia, including through my four U.S. citizen children, who were all born in Virginia: Jennifer, my oldest, is 23 years old; Janeth and Jamileth, my twins, are 18 years old; and my youngest daughter, Kayly, is 10 years old. I have primarily raised my children on my own as a single mother, and have worked hard to support them and provide for them, especially my youngest daughter, Kayly, who has autism and needs to attend a special education school.

6. I consider myself to be a good and hard-working person, and a contributing member of society and of my community. I have always paid my taxes, and I have never been arrested or convicted of any crimes.

7. In 2018, I applied for a travel document from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) using Form I-131 (Application for Travel Document) so that I could take a trip back to El Salvador. USCIS approved my application, and I then traveled to El Salvador. I lawfully re-entered the United States on September 17, 2018, after presenting my advance parole document to an officer who stamped my passport and allowed me to enter the United States.

8. On March 18, 2019 my oldest daughter, Jennifer, filed Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative) with USCIS to demonstrate that I am related to a U.S. citizen—*i.e.*, my daughter. I understand this was a necessary step for me to be eligible to apply for permanent residence. USCIS approved the petition on June 4, 2020.

9. However, I understand that because of a new policy USCIS adopted in December 2019, I am not able to adjust status with USCIS even though I departed the United States and then lawfully re-entered using my advance parole document. Because of the new USCIS policy, USCIS perceives me as still having an order of deportation.

10. It is my understanding that I do not have a strong case for asking the Immigration Court to reopen my deportation order and that if I tried, it would potentially take a long time and be expensive, but would be unlikely to result in the Immigration Court reopening my case to process my application for permanent residence.

11. It is also my understanding that if I tried to apply for permanent residence through the U.S. consulate in El Salvador I would have to remain outside of the United States for ten years, separated from my children, because of immigration penalties. I am also afraid that if I have to go back to El Salvador I could get stuck there and might never be allowed to return to the United States. My children, especially my 10-year-old daughter Kayly, need me here in the United States.

12. If the TPS program is ended, the U.S. government could deport me from the United States immediately and send me back to El Salvador where I have not lived for 25 years.

13. I would be very worried about what will happen to my children if I have to go back to El Salvador, since they would go back with me because they have no one here to take care of them if I left. I would be very afraid for them because I come from a place full of violence and crime, and they have never even been in El Salvador. I would also be very worried about my own physical safety and well-being if I have to go back to El Salvador.

14. If not for the new policy USCIS adopted in December 2019, I would be able to adjust my status as I originally planned to do. If not for the new policy, I could be a lawful

permanent resident by now. If that policy were removed, I would file my application to adjust status and believe that I would be successful in doing so.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true and correct.

Executed on: August 17, 2020

Manassas Park, Virginia


Maria Floriselda Alvarez Gomez