

# United States Senate

February 6, 2019

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN  
AFFAIRS  
BUDGET  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
PUBLIC WORKS

Consul General  
U.S. Consulate General  
American Embassy - Sydney, Australia  
MLC Centre, Level 10  
19-29 Martin Place  
Sydney, Australia

Dear Consul General:

I am writing on behalf of constituent, Dr. Abdollah Dehzangi, regarding his pending immigrant visa petition, in which his wife, Dr. Ghazaleh Taherzadeh (DOB: September 7, 1987 | Case No. SYD2018594002), is the beneficiary. Dr. Taherzadeh is being interviewed at the U.S. Embassy in Sydney on February 12, 2019. I respectfully request that she be considered for a waiver under Presidential Proclamation 9645, as she meets all of the stated eligibility criteria.

Denying entry to Dr. Taherzadeh would cause severe undue hardship. Dr. Dehzangi, Dr. Taherzadeh's husband, is a permanent resident of the United States and is an Assistant Professor in Computer Science at Morgan State University ("MSU") in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Dehzangi also serves as the Director of the Bioinformatics program at MSU. As a faculty member, Dr. Dehzangi works with hundreds of underrepresented and minority students throughout the community. A denial of Dr. Taherzadeh's request for a waiver would result in Dr. Dehzangi having to leave his position at MSU to be with his wife. Dr. Dehzangi's departure would cause the United States to incur significant expense in recruiting a replacement with similar qualifications.

Dr. Taherzadeh has been offered a position as a postdoctoral research scholar in the Department of Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics at the University of Maryland College Park. In addition, her outstanding qualifications enable her to assist with a project funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Denial of Dr. Taherzadeh's request for a waiver would result in a delay of the NIH project and would cause the University of Maryland College Park significant time and expense in trying to find a replacement with her same qualities and qualifications.

The entry of Dr. Taherzadeh into the United States would be in our country's national interest. With her PhD in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, her work as a research scholar at the University of Maryland College Park is in areas that serve the national interest of the United States, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, bioinformatics, and computational biology. Her entry would also be a personal benefit to her husband, Dr. Dehzangi,

## STATE OFFICES

MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
111 ROCKVILLE PIKE  
SUITE 960  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850  
PHONE (301) 545-1500  
FAX (301) 545-1512

ANNE ARUNDEL &  
SOUTHERN MARYLAND  
60 WEST STREET  
SUITE 107  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401  
PHONE (410) 263-1325

EASTERN SHORE  
204 CEDAR STREET  
SUITE 200C  
CAMBRIDGE, MD 21613  
PHONE (410) 221-2074

BALTIMORE REGION  
1900 NORTH HOWARD STREET  
SUITE 100  
BALTIMORE, MD 21218  
PHONE (667) 212-4610

WESTERN MARYLAND  
32 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
SUITE 203  
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740  
PHONE (301) 797-2826

PRINCE GEORGE'S  
COUNTY  
1101 MERCANTILE LANE  
SUITE 210  
LARGO, MD 20774  
PHONE (301) 322-6560

a permanent resident of the United States, who will then be able to continue his work at Morgan State University.

The various comprehensive background checks conducted in the natural course of processing and adjudicating this application will reflect that the entry of Dr. Taherzadeh would pose no threat to the national security or public safety of the United States. In fact, Dr. Taherzadeh has resided outside of Iran for the last 12 years without incident. She has lived in many countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia, and has no criminal or unlawful convictions. There is no evidence that she bears any ill will or malice toward this country.

I respectfully request that the U.S. Embassy in Sydney review the eligibility of Ghazaleh Taherzadeh for a waiver and extend to her all due consideration. Please direct all correspondence to Nina Ganti of my staff at [nina\\_ganti@vanhollen.senate.gov](mailto:nina_ganti@vanhollen.senate.gov).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris Van Hollen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" that loops back under the name.

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator