

I, Eliza, being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. I am making this affidavit in support of the application of my husband, Zurab, Alien Registration No. A.., for adjustment of his immigration status to that of permanent resident alien. More specifically, I am making this affidavit to support the I-601 Waiver that Zurab and I filed, on July .., 2007, with the New York District Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

2. I currently reside with Zurab at ... McKibbin Street, Apt. .., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11206.

3. I am a U.S. citizen by birth. I was born in Sharon, Connecticut, on April .., 1988.

4. An I-601 Waiver was filed in this case because Zurab left the United States in July of 2004, to visit his ailing mother, Zaira née, in their native country, the Republic of Georgia. Zurab had received advance parole from USCIS and was paroled back into the U.S. upon his return, in August of 2004. However, since Zurab's immigration status was that of a visitor in overstay, who had accrued more than one year of overstay prior to leaving the U.S., he is subject to a 10-year bar to admissibility, his being paroled back into the U.S. notwithstanding. The only waiver to this bar requires me to convince USCIS that Zurab's removal to Georgia would cause extreme hardship to me, and that is the purpose of this affidavit.

5. Because my life with Zurab has been complicated by my relationship with my parents, I would like to explain that relationship before focusing more directly on Zurab and how much he means to me.

6. I was born at a relatively late time in my parents' lives. When I was born, my father, John, was 59 and my mother, Anna née, was 36. My conception was totally unexpected and came as a surprise to both my parents. My father already had five children from

two previous marriages; however, because both of these marriages had ended in divorce when these children were very young, I am the only child in whose life my father has played a significant role. Furthermore, I am my mother's only child.

7. In growing up, I was cared for and loved in the most attentive way, which made me very attached to both my parents, and vice versa. As a result of such a close relationship it is very difficult for both of my parents, and my father in particular, to be away from me, and we see each other at least several times a month. For example, I had to go through a lot of struggle to convince my parents to let me study abroad for a year when I was in high school. When they finally agreed to let me spend a school year in France, and I did so, the separation was extremely difficult for both of them, and especially for my father, whose health has deteriorated in the past few years. During my lifetime he has had two heart attacks and lives with the constant pain and difficulties of obesity, type two diabetes, emphysema, and depression. Due to poor circulation in his legs, he has been hospitalized numerous times in the past years and his mobility is increasingly limited. Because of my father's health problems, I need to be especially attentive and careful so as not to put him in any more pain than he already has to cope with every day. In no way do I want to jeopardize his health by leaving him and moving to a different country.

8. In addition, my parents are very close to Zurab, and love him, and the feeling is mutual. They would be devastated if Zurab were removed from this country. The misery that such an event would cause to them, and especially the havoc that such an event would inflict on my father's emotional and physical health, would greatly compound my own.

9. I cannot explain enough how Zurab completes me. From the first time we met, in June of 2006, I knew that I would spend the rest of my life with him. Zurab has too many good qualities for me to describe in this affidavit, but most of all he loves me for who I am. When we started dating, we fell in love immediately. I have never believed in magic or miracles, but the way he makes me feel is beyond ordinary happiness. When he proposed to me, I did not even have to think to say yes. I knew we were meant to be together and it already felt like we

were married. No words can describe the happiness I feel when we are together. We are practically inseparable and even a short absence from Zurab causes me anxiety; I cannot imagine the emotional toll a long separation would have on both of us. Just the thought of him moving to Georgia breaks my heart, because I know I will not be able to move with him: I love Zurab to death but I cannot physically leave my parents here and move a continent away. I cannot subject my parents, and especially my father in his fragile health, to the cruelty of such a prolonged separation.

10. It is difficult for me even to contemplate the possibility of Zurab not been able to remain in the United States. We are both students here. Zurab is about to receive a degree in finance from Baruch College, part of the City University of New York. I am in my second year at New York University, studying English literature. Zurab and I both want to go to graduate school and we have made solid plans – balancing school, work, and our lives together – that we are both working extremely hard to fulfill. If, God forbid, Zurab were to be removed to Georgia, my life would become miserable. I could not simply follow my husband to Georgia and live with him there. As I stated above, my obligations to my parents, which are deeply personal and ongoing, require me to remain in the U.S.: the psychological pain of knowing their daughter is half a world away would be too cruel for me to inflict on my parents. Additionally, I do not speak Georgian, and moving to Georgia would alienate me and make me completely dependent on Zurab, which would undoubtedly put a strain on our relationship. On top of that, I am very serious about my education. My goal is to get the best education possible, a goal which I am able to realize by attending one of the best universities in this country. Even though I have long summer vacations, if Zurab were removed to Georgia, my visiting him in Georgia for a couple of months each year could never substitute for the normal life together that we planned for and completely need. Is it fair to separate a wife from the husband she loves so much, as a punishment for the fact that, out of desperation, he left the country for a month to be with his sick mother?

11. I would like to further explain the circumstances that led to Zurab's decision to visit his mother. It was not only that his mother was sick; her father (Zurab's grandfather), Amberki, whom Zurab was

very fond of, had died a few months before her sickness. When Zurab's grandfather was sick, in February of 2004, Zurab was in the United States and was afraid to visit him, for fear of the immigration consequences to himself. He decided not to visit, and his grandfather died. In addition to the grief he experienced, Zurab never forgave himself for not visiting his grandfather when he had the chance. So when Zurab's mother became ill, Zurab was determined to see her, even though he was warned by his attorney of the potential repercussions. Zurab did not want to risk losing what might have been his only chance of seeing his mother alive for the very last time, and he flew to Georgia. I strongly believe this was a very brave act on Zurab's part. It is just one example of his strong moral character and I do not think he should be punished for being a loving son.

12. Zurab and I fell in love when we first met, and our relationship has only deepened. We spend all of our free time together. When I consider how happy I have become because of Zurab's love and devotion, which I have done my best to reciprocate, I know how miserable I would be if he were abruptly torn out of my life, available to me only through e-mails and telephone calls: a long-distance husband. An enforced separation would cause immeasurable grief to both of us.

13. Finally, Zurab and I are both very family-oriented. We are serious about starting our own family: as soon as we finish school and are financially secure, we plan on having children. If Zurab were removed to Georgia, we would lose our pass to a great future in the U.S. and would lead a relatively impoverished life in Georgia, detrimental to ourselves, to my family, and to our future children.

Eliza

Sworn to before me this
day of November, 2007

Notary Public