



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

February 12, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen,

I write to implore you to stay the planned deportation of Zhe Long "Tony" Huang and Xiang "Kris" Li to China by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Tony and Kris have lived in the United States for nearly twenty years. Their two young children are American citizens who have spent their entire lives living in the United States. They own a small business. They are a part of the Farmington, Connecticut community, and most importantly, they are a part of the American fabric. Tony and Kris emigrated from China in search of freedom and a better life for their children. These two children, five and fifteen years old, know no other home than the United States, and have a loving mother and father to provide for them. Deporting them would send these two youths into foster care, and tear their family apart.

During President Trump's campaign, he spoke of the persecution of Christians around the world, and his intention to assist them. Tony and Kris are Christians. As you know, Christians in China are often persecuted for their religion. Just last week, in fact, Chinese authorities demolished a church that counted more than 50,000 congregants. In addition to the potential persecution they would face due to their religion, Tony and Kris could be branded as dissidents. They are proud and open patriots and supporters of the American way of life. In fact, they're quoted as saying "We have been here 20 years – we don't even think about China...We are Americans." Should they be deported to China, they may face oppression and persecution simply for their Christian religion and their pro-democratic views.

President Trump has stated that your Department prioritizes deporting "the worst of the worst," gang members, drug dealers, and violent criminals. This does not describe or characterize Tony and Kris. Surely we can agree that this family should not be torn asunder and that Tony and Kris

deserve a stay of deportation, and a chance at continuing to contribute to our great nation. They have the support of their neighbors, their community, their local, state and congressional elected officials, and now - they need your support. Especially with the U.S. Congress poised to consider immigration legislation, I urge you to use your discretion to ensure that this family remain in the place they call their home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dannel P. Malloy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Dannel P. Malloy

Governor