Lauren Gray attempting to stay in United States, meeting congressmen in Washington, DC

News

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Trenton residents Lauren Gray and her mother, Ali, have meetings scheduled on Monday and Tuesday with the staff of five congressmen and three senators in Washington, DC. Those meetings, and those with anyone "willing to listen", are part of ongoing attempts by the Gray's for Lauren to legally remain in the United States when she turns 21 on Wednesday, August 8th. That is when she NO LONGER would qualify as a dependent under her parent's Investor Visa's.
The Gray's, who moved to Trenton from England in 1995, have been on a federal waiting list for Green Card permanent residency status since 2003.

An immigration attorney from Portland, Oregon heard about the Gray's through media reports. Brent Renison has been providing the family with suggestions on what could be sought, while also "briefing" the staffs in the offices that the Gray's will be visiting.

Renison and Congressman Sam Graves have been involved in scheduling meetings. Graves' office is to escort the Gray's to the various offices involved.

Meetings have been scheduled with staff for Congressman Graves, Senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill of Missouri, Congressman Lamar Smith of Texas, Zoe Lofgren of California, Jason Chaffetz of Utah, Raul Labrador of Idaho, and Senator Mendendez of New Jersey. Three of those Congressmen (Smith, Lofgren, and Chaffetz) are in the House Judiciary Committee, which deals with immigration issues.

Attorney Renison is encouraging the public to contact those people, in addition to others in the U.S. House and Senate Judiciary Committee's, to show support for Lauren Gray and her family.

Renison explains that, in relation to the Gray's wait for Green Cards, the law requires people to wait until such a card is available before they can apply for it. A change, that would allow people to file BEFORE THAT DATE, is being sought:

Click here to listen to Brent Renison

Renison says he has discussed that request with representatives of the offices that the Gray's are to meet with on Monday and Tuesday:

Click here to listen to Brent Renison

That is immigration lawyer Brent Renison of Portland, Oregon.

Lauren's mother, Ali Gray, spoke with us about the discussion she and her daughter will be having in Washington, DC:

Click here to listen to Ali Gray

The Gray's will be attempting to speak with others willing to listen:

Click here to listen to Ali Gray

Ali Gray hopes to speak directly to Congressman Graves, Senator Blunt, and Senator McCaskill:

Click here to listen to Ali Gray

The woman says Senator Blunt has been helpful:

Click here to listen to Ali Gray

Future plans for Lauren Gray will depend on what happens on Monday and Tuesday in Washington. Attorney Renison has encouraged the family to seek a change in Lauren's status temporarily to keep her in the U.S. legally.

If Lauren can stay in the U.S., and work, she has an interview for a dancing job in Branson. She received a Bachelor's degree in dance this spring from Stephens College in Columbia, with a minor in integrated media.

Attorney Renison is attempting to arrange for the family to have legal representation while they are in Washington.

It has not been determined (as of the weekend), whether the Gray's will be able to meet with immigration authorities while they are in Washington, DC.