

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

CASA DE MARYLAND, INC., *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MAYORKAS, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 20-2118-PX

DECLARATION OF A.F.C.P.

I, A.F.C.P., being over 18 years old and fully competent to make this declaration, declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection:

1. My name is A.F.C.P.
2. I am 27 years old.
3. I live in Hammonton, New Jersey.
4. I am from Colombia.
5. I am openly gay.
6. I left Colombia after I repeatedly received death threats connected to my identity as a gay man and to my work with NGOs that help people in the LGBTQ+ community.
7. I applied for asylum in the United States in February 2022.
8. I waited at least 150 days after I filed my asylum application to apply for a work permit.
9. In July 2022, I submitted an application for a work permit based on my status as an asylum seeker.

10. I received a receipt notice from USCIS saying that my work permit application was received on July 28, 2022.
11. I am a member of the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (“ASAP”).
12. I included proof of my ASAP membership in my work permit application as instructed by the USCIS website.
13. After I submitted my application, I saw that USCIS uploaded my ASAP ID onto my online account as evidence.
14. I have now been waiting 43 days since the government received my work permit application. I have received no updates from the government, and I have not gotten my work permit.
15. In Colombia, I worked for four years in the compliance and financial sector.
16. I applied for a job in this sector in the United States and got a job offer.
17. The employer told me I am their top choice for the position, but that the start date is time sensitive.
18. The employer told me that if I do not have my work permit by the end of September, they will need to fill the position with someone else.
19. I am very worried about my financial situation if I can’t accept this job. I used all my life savings to come to the U.S. and seek asylum.
20. I am now running out of money.
21. I am worried I will be unable to pay rent and will be evicted.
22. I suffer from hypertension and was diagnosed with this condition in Colombia. Since coming to the U.S., I have not been able to get treatment or care because without my work permit, I am unable to get health insurance or afford medical care.

23. Not being able to work and the uncertainty I'm facing about whether I will be able to work soon is having a severe impact on my mental health. I am feeling hopeless and overwhelmed.

In conformity with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 9, 2022 in Hammonton, New Jersey.

(removed)
A.F.C.P.

DATE