

May 6, 2011

**Susan Feiszli, Mayor**

City Hall

25 Court Street

Cortland NY 13045

(607) 753-0872

[mayor@cortland.org](mailto:mayor@cortland.org)

Dear Mayor Feiszli:

We are writing about Hang Jiang, a citizen of Cortland who has been detained in March 23, 2011 on the account of being an immigrant without proper documentation and we need your help. We are Dr. Lin Lin, and Dr. Shufang Shi, associate professors at the Department of Childhood and Early Childhood Education at SUNY Cortland. We are also friends of Mr. and Mrs. Jiang, who own and run the Cortland Chinese Buffet off Route. 281 near BIG LOTS.

Mr. Hang Jiang was detained on March 23, 2011 by the Immigration Services officers on the account of being an immigrant without proper documentation. He has been in the Batavia State jail since then. Over 1000 Cortland citizens petitioned for the Immigration Services to release him, who has two children born in the United States as U.S. citizens. His family has been in the United States for 12 years and they have been law-abiding citizens who honestly run their restaurant business.

Recently, thanks to the great efforts of many Cortland citizens, and particularly Mrs. Ellen Wright, this case has been brought to the attention of the United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. The Senator and her assistant Emily agreed to help make inquiries about the status of Mr. Jiang's case. With the phone numbers they provided, we tried to call Emily several times after we faxed to them the requested form this morning.

We are writing to ask you to help Mrs. Jiang, who is now left with two children (one 5<sup>th</sup> grader son and a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader daughter), with her petition not to deport her husband and to release him so that he could be with his family. Over 1000 Cortland citizens have signed on their petitions, and over 40 people wrote them support letters to show to the Immigration officers that Mr. Jiang is not a criminal and will not pose a threat or danger to the community. Instead their business in Cortland helps keep people employed in Cortland.

We hope that the Senator will listen to you and we believe your support in this case weighs more than those coming from us. Thank you so much for your consideration. If you need more information or have questions, please contact Mrs. Jiang, who speaks English, but in many cases she might require interpretation. You can reach her at 607-756-2799 at work, or call her cell phone at 315-807-8717. We would not mind passing along messages to her. Please feel free to call us at 607-753-4234 (office of Dr. Lin Lin) and 607-753-2468 (Dr. Shufang Shi).

Mrs. Jiang's children go to Randall School in Cortland. Even since their father was taken away, the boy stopped talking or smiling. They live in terror and anxiety as each day goes by. They are afraid that bad news could come to them at any day now that their father has to be deported back to China. While we understand immigration policies are tough in this country, we appreciate if you could contact U.S. Senator Gillibrand's office in New York City. Her office phone number is: 212- 688-6262. If you can get through to her office, please let Emily, the senator's assistant call Mrs. Jiang. We left several messages on her answering machine this morning out of desperation. We would appreciate that Emily lets us know when it is convenient for her to speak with Mrs. Jiang so that we could be with Mrs. Jiang to assist with translation.

Your consideration is highly appreciated. We knew you were recently awarded Civic Engagement Leadership Award as a community leader. We thank you for your amazing work as Mayor of Cortland.

We are proud of living in Cortland.

Sincerely,

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