

United States Department of Homeland Security
United States Citizenship & Immigration Services
Vermont Service Center
75 Lower Welden St.
St. Albans, Vermont 05479-001

To Whom It May Concern

I have known Mr. Parsi for the past five years, and it is with great pleasure that I write in support of his application for permanent residency status in the United States. Mr. Parsi was introduced to me by Congressman Bob Ney (R-Oh) as a valued advisor on matters concerning the Middle East, particularly Iran. Mr. Parsi has a sound training in the field of international relations in general, and has proven practical knowledge of the implications of the Middle East. He is one of the very few who have genuine, tested skills in the sensitive areas of US-Iran relations and US-Israeli relations. He has been instrumental in improving the channels of information exchange between the US government and the Iranian-American community, qualities that would make him an extremely valuable member of the foreign policy community of our country.

I have been involved in foreign affairs for most of my adult life, as a diplomat, as a legislative aide in the US Senate, as a scholar and professor, and as president of an international foundation as well as the head of several NGO's. I have been closely following in the Middle East and particularly Iran since I returned from Ukraine in 1998, where I served as US Ambassador from 1993-1998. I met Mr. Parsi shortly after my return. Mr. Parsi's direct knowledge of Iran has been a great help to many, but particularly Congressman Bob Ney and others in Congress. Mr. Parsi's insights have been a great help for me as well. His presence in Washington as a PhD candidate and an advisor to Congressman Ney has been marked by valued contributions to policy considerations on the Middle East, and particularly, Iran.

Iran is at the center of the main issues that affect us in the Middle East. This central position is even more crucial to our interests since September 11, 2001. How Iran chooses to act will have an important and even crucial bearing on our security interests, particularly the war on terror. People with deep knowledge of Iran are greatly needed.

Mr. Parsi has, for several years, helped our key Congressional leaders gain a better understanding of the Middle East and Iran. With informed leadership from the Congress working closely with the Administration, the US can help stabilize this turbulent region of the world, and defeat the terrorism that emanates from its poverty and authoritarian rule. Understanding the Iranian political system and the roots of Islamic fundamentalism are among our most important needs. Mr. Parsi has proven expert knowledge in these critical areas of need. It is my belief that Mr. Parsi has already had a significant role in shaping the Congressional debate on US security in the Middle East. Because of his first hand knowledge of the Iranian political situation and the inner workings of political systems, his knowledge and skills are in great demand.

Granting Mr. Parsi permanent residence status would enable his valuable skills and knowledge to be most effectively used. I have no reservations in supporting Mr. Parsi's application for permanent residence status in the United States, because I believe he would contribute greatly to our present most important natural security needs.

If there is any further information you might need concerning Mr. Parsi, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Ambassador William Green Miller