

DECLARATION STATEMENT OF REBECCA TRIMBLE

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Rebecca Trimble, (maiden name Wilson), am pursuing a lawful permanent residency in the United States. I was born on August 25, 1989 and ***I have lived in the U.S. for all but the first 3 days of my life.***

I have not left the country at any point. I was adopted from Mexico by George Wilson and Pamela Wilson (now Edmonds), legally married couple, ***who are both U.S. citizens by birth.*** Their names appear on my birth certificate as my parents. George and Pamela wanted children, but were unable to have children of their own for medical reasons. They learned of my 12 year-old, pregnant, biological mother in Mexico from two missionary friends who were living in Tecate, Mexico in 1989. My biological mother and her family were unable to pay for the hospital stay and Cesarean section procedure that was required for delivery, and were also unable to take care of a baby.

My adoptive parents drove down to Mexico in a green RV, paid for my mother's hospital stay and delivery, and then brought me back into the United States in the same RV with me in my adoptive mother's lap in the front seat. They did not attempt to smuggle me or hide me – they presented me to the officer and were waived through the Tecate border crossing back into the United States in late August, 1989. George and Pamela both have letters in my USCIS file outlining their memories of the event. At this time, my adoptive parents considered that the paperwork they had received from officials in Mexico had completed and finalized the adoption process.

Around the age of 7 years, I found out that I was adopted, but I was not told that I was born somewhere else and that I was not a U.S. Citizen. ***I grew up in the United States as the daughter of George and Pamela, believing that I was a full-fledged U.S. citizen.*** I have no known familial connections to Mexico. I do not speak or understand the Spanish language. I was raised as an American and did not question it.

I attended a combination of home-school and a small, private Christian school through sixth grade. I attended Willamina Middle School in Willamina, Oregon in seventh grade. I attended Discovery Middle School in Vancouver, Washington in eighth grade and Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, Washington throughout high school. I graduated from high school in June 2008.

I married my high school sweetheart (and sponsor for my residency), John Trimble, on August 4, 2012. Later that month, I attempted to apply for a Washington state enhanced driver's license, but was turned away due to lack of documentation indicating my citizenship. ***Before that point, I had not experienced any problems like that. I had been able to enroll in public school, had a social security card, was employed, had a valid Washington state driver's license (not enhanced), was registered to vote, and had voted in an election. Through all of these stages, I had believed I was a U.S. Citizen,*** I was never asked about it and it never crossed my mind that I was not. The first time that I was questioned about my citizenship was August 2012 when I tried to get the enhanced Washington state driver's license.

Concerning my unlawful registration and voting in the 2008 presidential election for which I am requesting a waiver:

During the 2007-2008 academic school year, my senior year at Hudson's Bay High School, I took a class called CWP or Current World Problems taught by Mrs. Triplett. It is a social studies course with a lot of class discussions and debates about current economic, political, and governmental issues around the globe. It was during this course that I, with my classmates, was strongly encouraged to register to vote and participate in the voting process. Since I was 18 years old at the time and believed myself to be a U.S. citizen, there was no reason in my mind not to register and vote in the upcoming election, which I did. During that time, there was a lot of hype and excitement amongst my peers about Barack Obama and his chance of becoming the first African-American president. It was viewed as a chance for change and for us to make an impact as first-time voters.

So, I registered to vote in class, along with many of my classmates as Mrs. Triplett demonstrated how to register online. I then voted in the general election later that year in 2008 when I was 19 years old. I did not knowingly or willfully commit any violation. Furthermore, I was under the conviction that I was a U.S. citizen at the time of registration and voting, both of my adoptive parents are U.S. citizens, and I have never even left the U.S. since I was 3 days old.

Upon reading 18 U.S.C. §611, I was glad to find that subsection (c) seems to contain a provision for my situation. I have copied 18 U.S.C §611 below for reference:

"(a) It shall be unlawful for any alien to vote in any election held solely or in part for the purpose of electing a candidate for the office of President, Vice President, Presidential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of the House of Representatives, Delegate from the District of Columbia, or Resident Commissioner, unless—

(1) the election is held partly for some other purpose;

(2) aliens are authorized to vote for such other purpose under a State constitution or statute or a local ordinance; and

(3) voting for such other purpose is conducted independently of voting for a candidate for such Federal offices, in such a manner that an alien has the opportunity to vote for such other purpose, but not an opportunity to vote for a candidate for any one or more of such Federal offices.

(b) Any person who violates this section shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to an alien if—

(1) each natural parent of the alien (or, in the case of an adopted alien, each adoptive parent of the alien) is or was a citizen (whether by birth or naturalization);

(2) the alien permanently resided in the United States prior to attaining the age of 16; and

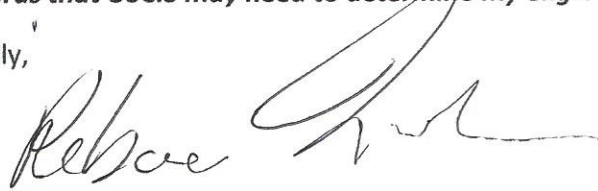
(3) the alien reasonably believed at the time of voting in violation of such subsection that he or she was a citizen of the United States."

Since learning that I am not actually a citizen of the United States, I have been extra careful to not declare myself as a U.S. citizen and have abstained from voting in any elections in order to preserve my ability to gain lawful permanent residency and U.S. citizenship. I have also cancelled my voter's registration in Clark County, Washington, where I was registered, and have obtained a copy of my voting records.

Please consider my history and the situation surrounding my unlawful registration and voting in 2008 when reviewing my waiver request and my application for residency. The 2008 election was particularly exciting for me and for people my age as first-time voters. I, with my classmates, was strongly encouraged to register and vote in the 2008 election during our CWP course in high school. Beyond that, I have lived in Oregon or Washington since I was less than a week old. Both of my adoptive parents are U.S. citizens by birth. I have never left the United States and I believed that I was a U.S. citizen at the time of registration and voting.

I certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States, that the information provided in this statement is all true and correct. Furthermore, I authorize the release of any information from any of my records that USCIS may need to determine my eligibility for the immigration benefit I seek.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca", followed by a long, horizontal, sweeping flourish.

Rebecca (Becky) Trimble