

(January 23, 2008) Widow Avoids Deportation, For Now

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Steve Miller Reporting

(WBBM) - A close call for a South Chicago widow - an illegal immigrant who apparently faced almost certain deportation yesterday.

WBBM's Steve Miller reports.

For 14 years, 43-year-old Corina Turcinovic cared for her paralyzed husband.

The government says she overstayed her visa and was about to be deported to her native France.

In fact, Congressman Dan Lipinski says Turcinovic was being driven to the airport when efforts to let her stay paid off in Washington.

Late yesterday afternoon, a congressional subcommittee on immigration agreed to take up Lipinski's private bill supporting Turcinovic. And Immigration and Customs Enforcement agreed to let her stay, Lipinski says, for the immediate future - and probably a year or indefinitely.

"At that time the call came to the car... they turned the car around to bring Corina back to the detention center and then to release her."

Congressman Lipinski says a "bureaucratic snafu" is the only reason Turcinovic wasn't allowed to stay earlier.