

Dear Senators,

My name is Sheren Roxas-Garcia, I'm an Operating-Room Nurse at Kaiser Permanente Westside Medical Center in Hillsboro, OR. I was in the cohort-2 of the Immigrant Nurse Credentialing (INC) program at the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) from Jan-Dec 2019.

Before the INC program, I was a stay at home mom taking care of my two beautiful daughters. Today, I'm a professional nurse working for the betterment of my family's future.

Without the INC program I would never have been able to achieve my dream of using my skills, nursing degree and nursing experience to become a practicing nurse in the United States. It gave me the ability to provide for my family financially.

Growing up in the Philippines has given me a different perspective in life that I bring to my workplace. I think it's important for the medical field to be diverse because that's one of the many reasons why this country is as great as it is.

I know of many Registered Nurses from the Philippines that are here but not practicing as a nurse because they didn't know there is a program like INC that could have helped them achieve their dreams just like me.

The medical field is in need of qualified medical professionals right now and the INC program is one of the few solutions to the shortage.

I'm very hopeful that SB0849 will pass.

Very Respectfully,

Sheren Roxas-Garcia, RN, BSN