

Submitter: Robin Cushman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB703

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary;

My family were immigrants long ago, as were we all if we do not have Native American heritage. Current vicious anti-immigrant attitudes and government orders frighten me for them! I have worked with and supported immigrants at various times in my life and every single one had come seeking asylum because they feared for their lives or their children's lives. All had good reason to fear. Here are three examples:

1. My daughter's kindergarten teacher who escaped the Nazis by fleeing with her children over the alps, the youngest she had to carry.
2. A family of four who came here from El Salvador after the husband/father was shot dead in front of them and a daughter shot in her leg. The militia said they'd return for the 12-year-old son. It was then that the mother fled with her three children.
3. An immigrant who had been in the US previously with a visa for legitimate reasons was asked by a journalist at a European event what they thought of the war against Ukraine. They said they could not support it and became a wanted criminal in their country. (Feeling it unsafe, I specifically left our gender and other details.)

All received asylum and were welcomed in our community. All are now contributing members of our towns and country. Others need to have the same protections and assurance.