

Submitter: Rebecca Schenck

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB703

I am acquainted with a number of immigrants in our community who contribute to our city and state wellbeing and economy. Immigrants clean houses, perform landscaping tasks, roof houses, construct houses—and most of all, they pay taxes and contribute to social security even though they are unable to draw social security benefits. Most immigrants are dependable, willing workers, uncomplaining as they perform tasks in inclement weather that few members of our community want to do.

I am also a supporter of the Refugee and Immigrant Services Program (RISP) an organization that helps refugees navigate the complicated system to obtain lawful permanent resident status. All immigrants I know desperately want to obtain legal status, but our system is so cumbersome it is impossible to navigate it without informed assistance. Consequently, I urge the Department of Human Services to provide a grant to RISP to continue the vitally important work this nonprofit organization does for members of our community. Thank you.