

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

I teach an ESL class to immigrants and refugees, and I strongly support SB 703. Since the advent of the Trump administration, and in particular its indiscriminate deportation of immigrants, we've noticed a significant decline in attendance in our English class due to people's fears of ICE raids and deportation. In most cases, people are not aware of their rights and that there are pathways to a more secure immigration status. SB 703 would provide the needed funding to nonprofit legal service providers to cover legal costs for low- and no-income immigrants. Having greater access to legal support would help these immigrants stabilize their lives and become the productive members of our society they long to be.