

Submitter: Amy Adams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB149

As an immigration attorney who has worked with asylum seekers for over 8 years, I have seen firsthand the imbalance in services available to refugees vs. asylum seekers. Asylum seekers barely qualify for any public services, and they are already at a legal disadvantage from refugees. The only difference legally between an "asylee" (someone who has been granted asylum) and a "refugee" is that refugees have been given the designation before arriving in the U.S., and an "asylee" had to successfully argue that they are a refugee (a person with a well-founded fear of persecution on account of a protected ground in their home country, and is thus unable to return to their home country) to a hostile and ever-changing federal government. This difference leads to a systemic instability in asylum-seeking families. These are our hard-working, family-oriented, brave neighbors, and they deserve support as they seek legal status in the U.S.