

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:22:31 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:23:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:15
IP Address: 162.217.186.240

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Hena Mansori
Organization (if any):	Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60603

Q2

County Rules Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee Meeting 1/27/2021 11a**

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

21-0495

Q4

What do you want to do?

**DO NOT ATTEND THE MEETING and PROVIDE
WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You
may add written comments below)**

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

I will be providing testimony in support of the resolution.

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 23, 2021 9:40:03 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:44:31 AM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 73.110.128.59

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Maria Velazquez
Organization (if any):	Telpochcalli Community Education Project
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60623

Q2

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January 26, 2021

Honorable President Preckwinkle and Board of Commissioners,

Telpochcalli Community Education Project (Tcep), builds individual capacity, collective power and mutual responsibility through culturally relevant and community-directed education, leadership development and community organizing. Tcep believes that everyone has a voice in shaping their community and creates engagement opportunities by opening its doors for community dialogue and conversations focused on addressing community-identified needs and concerns. This drives the activities created for engagement and growth.

Thank you for this opportunity to engage in support of the Proposed Resolution #21-0495, in which Cook County calls upon the federal government to implement policies to protect the immigrant community and strengthen the immigration system in the United States.

We are Telpochcalli Community Education Project. A grassroots community organization building individual capacity, collective power and mutual responsibility through culturally relevant and community-directed education, leadership development and community organizing.

It is critical that Cook County, the second largest County in the United States, send a strong and clear message to President Biden that you are committed to protecting the rights of immigrants. Immigrants are the labor and economic force of this country and we must approach immigration policy in an innovative and humane way that moves towards inclusion and decriminalization.

As an organization in an immigrant community, we have heard devastating stories and a lot of suffering from families being separated from their love ones. We need to change legislation in a way that we respect the rights of all immigrants and create a humane process for integration to this country. We need to keep families together and create policy with a foundation of social values.

I fully support the goals outlined in this resolution and respectfully ask you to vote in favor today. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted.

Maria D. Velazquez

Executive Director

mvelazquez@tcepchicago.org

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:46:30 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:52:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:43
IP Address: 107.198.98.69

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Fred Tsao
Organization (if any):	Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60604

Q2

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(We are submitting a letter of support)

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 25, 2021 1:02:40 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:44:28 AM
Time Spent: 21:41:47
IP Address: 99.118.238.50

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Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Sarah Cartagena
Organization (if any):	Latino Policy Forum
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60601

Q2

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The Latino Policy Forum appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Board of Commissioners for Cook County. My name is Sarah Cartagena, and I am the Immigration Policy Analyst for the Latino Policy Forum. The Latino Policy Forum is a statewide non-profit advocacy organization that promotes Latino participation and social action in public policy discussions. The Forum actively advocates for policies that support the successful political, social, and economic inclusion of Latino immigrants in their new communities, in addition to policies that protect and defend the equality, dignity, and basic liberties of all immigrants.

The Forum stands in full support of the proposed resolution filed by Commissioner, Alma Anaya, which calls upon the federal government to implement policies to protect the immigrant community and strengthen the current immigration system in the United States. In alignment with the Latino Policy Forum's principles, we would like to direct our remarks to sections (1), (3) and (4) of the proposed resolution.

We particularly call attention to provision (1) "the immediate rescission of the numerous executive orders, proclamations, and other policy changes that the previous federal administration used to confuse, intimidate, exclude and remove immigrants." The public charge rule is a prime example of a policy stance that adversely targeted immigrants based on their legal status, wealth, and level of social integration. The Migration Policy Institute noted that between 2018 and 2019, when the public charge rule was highly publicized, participation in SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid declined twice as much for noncitizens as for U.S citizens. This study highlights the fear, confusion and consequential chilling effect the public charge rule had, and continues to have, on our immigrant communities.

The Forum supports provision (3), the call for inclusive "access to adequate healthcare, affordable housing, and vital social services by removing restrictions that have excluded vulnerable segments of the immigrant community." Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, high-immigrant, Latino and Black communities have been particularly hard hit. Eleven of the 15 most impacted zip codes in Illinois are Latino majority areas, most with high numbers of immigrants. Nine of those zip codes are located within Cook County. This exemplifies the pressing need for immigrants to have fair access to healthcare and social services, particularly during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, as of January 2021, 2 million children with Social Security numbers whose parents are undocumented continue to be excluded from federal emergency relief, as do 9 million undocumented individuals; despite their faithful federal and state tax contributions.

The Forum endorses provision 4(b), "legislation prioritizing path to citizenship for the undocumented population in the United States." Immigrants have faced roadblocks and dead ends on their path towards citizenship. DACAmented individuals, for example, have been in a limbo for almost a decade. Moreover, the estimated 437,000 undocumented individuals in Illinois have been left with no other option but to remain in the shadows.

We similarly support provision 4(c), "the separation of the criminal justice system from the immigration system." A more progressive and objective dialogue would be encouraged; one where immigration cases are not analyzed through a criminal lens and immigrants are considered as people before they are labeled as criminals. This action aligns well with the Cook County's recent initiative to fund a public defender immigration unit.

The Latino Policy Forum appreciates Cook County's leadership in putting on the record their commitment to support sound federal policy efforts that help us materialize our shared mission to uphold the rights of immigrants and empower them to thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at: scartagena@latinopolicyforum.org

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:19:19 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:33:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:39
IP Address: 98.34.50.63

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Sara Walker
Organization (if any):	Lincoln United Methodi
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60608

Q2

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Hello and Good morning my name is Sara Walker and I am a lay leader at Lincoln UMC as well as the national coordinator of our Right 2 Family campaign to stop the deportations. I am here today to speak in favor of the resolution introduced by Commissioner Alma Anaya. We appreciate the Commissioners continued advocacy for our undocumented community and her work to keep families together. And we support the philosophy of a pathway to citizenship for our families. However, I must make note today on the record that a bill that will include a pathway to citizenship for 12 million people does not have a path forward in our current Congress. In order to pass a bill on immigration we will need 60 votes in the Senate. Republicans are already coming forward to say they will not support a bill that provides citizenship to all. So while we do support the concept of continuing the longer fight for citizenship for our people, right now we need a solution that will stop the family separations by deportations and we need it NOW. Our Right 2 Family campaign is working with Congressman Bobby Rush who will soon introduce the American Right 2 Family Act in the House of Representatives. While we are here to say we support the efforts to fight for citizenship, we are also here today to tell the Board that we must now also support the American Right 2 Family Act because we believe it can pass in this current Congress and stop the crisis of which our families have lived for over 12 years. We have endured 8 years of a broken promise by Obama and then 4 horrible years under Trump. We have just 2 years of this Biden Administration where the Democrats will control the House and Senate. We must support the American Right 2 Family Act now and stop the deportations. And we will continue to fight for citizenship for all, once all our families can come out of the shadows and 2 million deportees will be able to return home. Thank you.
