

— EST. 1984 —

CORCORAN

caterers



HB1023

Good afternoon. Thank you Chairman and the Committee as a whole for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Valvique Dias.

I am 43 years old, born in Brazil, and married to Linda Dias. I am the father of two sons, Lucas and Isaac, who are 9 and 4 years old.

I came to the United States when I was 21 years old with \$500 in my pocket. I did not speak English, but had a dream to make a better life for myself and my future family.

My priority was to start working right away because I needed to provide for myself. I didn't have the chance to go to school and learn the language or to pursue better opportunities.

After working several months in three very different jobs: construction, landscaping and washing dishes/waiting tables at a restaurant, a friend of mine introduced me to the catering industry.

I immediately saw a lot of opportunities in this industry and I decided to learn as much as I could about the business.

For years on an on-call basis, I booked myself with a lot of different catering companies in the region, like B&B catering, Uptown catering, Design Cuisine, Mindy's catering, MK catering, Capital Catering, Susan Gage and others.

In 2006, a friend introduced me to Mr. Corcoran's company and I started working there as a truck driver, working my way up from waiter, head waiter, bartender, Captain and ultimately, a supervisor. Corcoran Caterers was the one company that took me in full-time and gave me the opportunity to grow.

In 2011, I was promoted to assistant operation manager and since 2012 I have been the head of Corcoran Caterers' entire operation.

I am a living example of an immigrant with no college education with broken English that built a successful career in the catering industry.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to share a little bit of my life history with you.

Thanks,

Nick Dias
General Manager
Corcoran Caterers