

Lorraine A. Wilson

Date: February 3, 2022

Bill Title: ACCESS TO COUNSEL IN IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS

Bill Number: SB129

Position: Favorable/ Support

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Honorable Committee Members

I strongly support SB129 in its efforts to give immigrants access to counsel.

At last year's Hearings, I was very impressed by the testimony of a former Immigration Judge. It was her esteemed opinion that immigrants should have access to counsel. As she said, and as I now agree, it is by far the most important aspect of immigration court and most always determines the outcome of a case. I try to think how I would feel, standing before a Judge, and not understanding fully what is involved in presenting my own case were I to find myself in a similar position. Even though that seems highly unlikely, I shudder to think about it and how what and how my case is presented will determine my whole future and that of my family.

I could site many statistics and lots of data (as I generally do) but in this instance I simply appeal to your own sense of decency and human feeling. These people (or their families) are our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers. I believe they should have a fighting chance when making an appeal for their chance to seek asylum.

Please consider this when making your decisions about SB129 and send a FAVORABLE report from your committee.

Respectfully

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