



Nysha Operana <nyshadiana360@gmail.com>

testimony U visa bill

1 message

Perez Jenkins Law <patricia@perezjenkinslaw.com>

Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 8:01 AM

To: nyshadiana360@gmail.com

Dear Nysha,
Here is my testimony for the U visa:

The U visa is an important tool to allow law enforcement to find and prosecute those who prey upon the most vulnerable. Non english residents may not always feel comfortable calling the police. They may not always know that the police are there to help them. In many cases, people are afraid to seek out help because they think the police will not do anything to protect them or because they don't think they will be heard because they don't speak the language.

Victims of domestic violence where the abuser is a US Citizen and speaks the language have often found themselves in situations where they do not feel like they can trust the system. They do not get help until in many cases someone else calls the police. The U visa is more than a benefit for immigrants. It is a trust building tool that allows the police to tell communities that it is safe to approach them, that they are not there to help the abusers or the criminals, that they are not corrupt (many people come from nations where the police are part of the problem), that they are not there to hurt them, not there to threaten them, and that they will be listened to fairly. It is only a tool and it has to be followed up with a change in the culture that treats everybody regardless of where they are from, the accent they have, or the language they speak as individuals worthy of telling their story. The U visa is a signal to the community that they are safe in contacting the police when a violent crime happens. It helps everybody keep the community safe.

Patricia Perez-Jenkins

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