



MISSION

November 6, 2018

OneAmerica

Dear King County Council Members:

Advancing

OneAmerica hereby supports budget ER2 Expenditure Restriction- U and T Visa Certification Proviso that would expend or encumber up to \$2,000,000 depending upon the Sheriff's Office compliance with RCW 7.98.020. That provision requires all Washington State law enforcement agencies to make certification decisions concerning applications for U (crime victim) and T (trafficking victim) visas within 90 days of receipt. Law enforcement agencies must decide whether the applicant is a victim of a qualifying crime and has been cooperative per the USCIS regulations. Law enforcement agencies do NOT decide whether the person is entitled to a U or T visa, since DHS makes that determination based on other factors in addition to agency certification (on Forms I-918B and I-914B).

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We support the U and T visa budget proviso that requires the Sheriff to document the certification requests received, those that were certified, and other compliance requirements in the proviso. Immigrants across Washington are frequently the victims of crimes and trafficking, especially but not limited to undocumented immigrants who can be taken advantage of in many ways. The U and T visas provide much needed relief to these victims, but delays in certifying their requests or denying certifications for political reasons merely re-victimizes immigrants. We expect the Sheriff's Office to comply with federal and state law obligations under these two visa categories.

Sincerely,

Rich Stolz
Executive Director

Advancing Immigrant,
Civil & Human
Rights

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