





October 13, 2025

Dear Members of the San Francisco Commission Streamlining Task Force

I am a <u>Professor of Political Science at San Francisco State University</u> and I write regarding two recommendations made by the San Francisco Commission Streamlining Task Force regarding the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC), specifically (1) the recommendation to consolidate the IRC with another body; and (2) to have the IRC, along with other advisory bodies, be subject to an automatic three-year "sunset" review.

I have worked with several immigrant serving organizations in San Francisco, including the <u>San Francisco Immigrant Parent Voting Collaborative (IPVC)</u> that is currently headed up by Chinese for Affirmative Action. In conjunction with other scholars, we have conducted research and produced <u>policy briefs</u> regarding San Francisco's immigrant parent voting law among other programs.

Our research shows that the work of the IRC and the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) is vital to ensure San Francisco effectively implements programs serving and protecting immigrant communities. The Immigrant Rights Commission has played an important and unique role in advocating for the rights of San Francisco residents and workers and remains a strong voice that informs the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on policies and issues in partnership with the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) staff. The IRC established and cultivated trust between immigrant communities and local government, providing need resources to immigrants, enhancing civic participation, and ensuring resource allocation effectively meets community needs.

Given the expansion of federal immigration enforcement, it is critical that the Commission amplify the needs of vulnerable communities and ensure it works effectively with the city to provide needed services and protect its residents. The stakes are simply too high now.

I urge the Task Force Commission to maintain the IRC as an independent commission and strengthen it by ensuring it receives the needed staffing and resources to deepen its impact to serve the urgent needs of immigrant communities.

Sincerely

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