

Immigrant Rights Commission

October 14, 2025

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

In a time so rife with uncertainty for our immigrant communities around the nation, and particularly in San Francisco, maintaining the independence and permanence of the Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC) is of paramount need. Today, I write to express explicit support for maintaining their existence. Ensuring that immigrant voices and perspectives are integrated into the consciousness of policy-making, the IRC acts as a partner in elevating those who are often sequestered in the sidelines; without an independent and permanent body, future policy-making and mayoral directive succumbs to an inadequate representation of the community those with this power are meant to serve, with the threat of a recurring sunset review process. In a city where about a third of residents identify as immigrants, the IRC ensures that dignity and refuge are sewn at the foundation.

Civic engagement is, furthermore, a cornerstone in the work of the IRC. Spanning efforts to secure Language Access Ordinances, advancing proposals for detailed immigration policy reform, strengthening San Francisco's Sanctuary City Ordinance, supporting voting permissions for immigrant parents in the city, and much more, the IRC has actively championed the ability of all SF immigrant residents to access their constitutional rights and civil liberties. These actions are timely and responsive to the climate in which San Francisco's immigrant residents must contend with, nourishing the haven promised to our community. To remove the independence and permanence of the IRC would be the stripping rights of a multitude from the decision making table, all while subjecting the community to continued need to prove their worthiness for inclusion.

As a student who was raised in a family and community of immigrants, I see the times we are currently living to be a true call to action. I am struck by this need for praxis, for the effort to not just offer those historically marginalized a "seat at the table," but a place to actively implement the direction and mutual effort to better their communities. In this current moment, there exists a critical ability to choose between allowing that needed, active position to remain or quietly working to undo its presence. I urge the members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force to allow their humanity into the decision-making process and consider the ripple effects of the decisions they may make and I am grateful for their attention.

With sincere appreciation,

Elena Maria

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elena Maria' with a stylized flourish at the end.

University Student