

Roberts Immigration Law Office, Ltd.

Practice Limited to Immigration Law

Susan M. Roberts

Attorney at Law

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RE: HFXXX Certifications for Victims of Crimes

Dear Chair Mariana and members of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform and Finance Policy Committee:

I, Susan Roberts, Immigration Attorney, support the proposed bill and respectfully request that members of this committee support efforts to prevent the victimization of Minnesota residents especially in Greater Minnesota. The bill promotes a streamlined certification process throughout the state of Minnesota which will provide guidance to law enforcement agencies when receiving such requests. This will be most beneficial to law enforcement agencies with fewer resources. Furthermore, the bill promotes the protection of crime victims and ensures that foreign national crime victims are available to assist in the prosecution of those accused of the crimes.

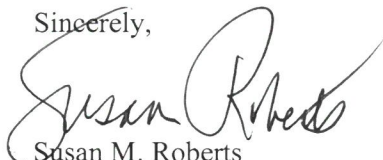
Currently, there is no standard certification process throughout Minnesota. Foreign national/immigrant victims of crimes are treated differently depending on the community where the crime occurred. This was not the intention of Congress. Congress created the U visa to address the problem that immigrant women and children are often targeted to be victims of crimes committed against them in the United States, including domestic violence, sexual assault, involuntary servitude, being held hostage or being criminally restrained. However, unless and until this state develops a statewide certification process, the intent of congress to protect all immigrant victims of crimes cannot be fulfilled to the full extent of the law.

Providing guidance to law enforcement agencies throughout Minnesota will encourage victims to come forward and report crimes, making our communities safer.

Supporting the bill will allow communities throughout Greater Minnesota to foster positive relationships with law enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Roberts
Attorney at Law

816 West Saint Germain Street
Suite #607
Saint Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 257-8472 (Phone)
(320) 257-8093 (Fax)
susan@immigrationmn.com

