



**New York City Council Hearing
Committee on Immigration
Tuesday, December 17, 2013 1:00 p.m.**

Testimony re: Resolution Number 1515 calling upon the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign S.1336, also known as the “Immigration Fraud Prevention Act of 2011,” which would impose criminal penalties on any person who falsely represents himself or herself as an immigration attorney or as an accredited immigration representative; and a Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to increase the criminal penalties for unscrupulous immigration service providers who violate state law.

Good Afternoon. My name is Audrey Carr. I am the Director of Immigration and Special Programs at Legal Services NYC. Legal Services NYC is the largest provider of free civil legal services for the poor in the country. With offices in every borough, our advocates represent hundreds of low-income immigrant New Yorkers with a variety of matters, including immigration. We assist client apply for naturalization, work authorizations, adjustments of status, replacement of permanent residence cards, alien relative petitions, with immigrant visa processing and assistance in removal proceedings. Legal Services attorneys also provide domestic violence immigration-related services, including VAWA self-petitions, battered spouse waivers and U and T visa applications.

Many of our clients have been victims of “notarios” -- individuals falsely representing themselves as licensed American attorneys. These notarios take large sums of money from immigrants and offer nothing in return. Often notarios submit immigration applications for individuals who may not be eligible for the immigration benefits they are seeking and in some cases, applications submitted by notarios cause immigrants to be placed in removal or deportation proceedings, which in turn leads to our clients being deported and separated from their families. Needless to say, the devastation wrought on immigrants and their families by fraudulent immigration service provides is catastrophic.

In an effort to combat notario fraud, the Manhattan District Attorney created an Office of Immigrant Affairs in 2007. Immigrants living in Manhattan who have paid exorbitant fees to attorneys and non-attorneys alike, but who have received no services for the fees they paid can contact the Manhattan DA to file a complaint. The DA’s office will investigate the matter and, where warranted, bring criminal charges against the immigration service provider. Moreover, whenever new or updated immigration initiatives are announced by the federal government, such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Temporary Protected Status or the Diversity Visa Program, the Manhattan DA hosts seminars for immigrants to inform them of their rights and make them aware of fraudulent ads or practices they may encounter when seeking immigration assistance.

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We commend the Manhattan DA's Office of Immigrant Affairs and its work on behalf of victimized immigrants. Unfortunately, the beneficial service this office provides only protects immigrant residents of Manhattan. More must be done.

Undocumented and documented immigrants alike are extremely vulnerable. Some face challenges learning the language, while many encounter discrimination in housing, employment and in other aspects as they navigate life in our City. As a result, when they are defrauded, assaulted or are victims of other crimes, they rarely seek assistance from the police or other law enforcement officials.

As noted above, we at Legal Services often meet clients who have paid large amounts of money to notarios who in turn have delivered poorly prepared immigration applications, some with made up facts. In some instances, money has been taken where no application has been filed at all. If the client lives in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens or Staten Island, she has no recourse for filing a complaint. A state law that enacts criminal penalties against unscrupulous immigration service providers will protect immigrants throughout New York from sham immigration practices. Likewise, the Immigration Fraud Prevention Act currently pending in Congress will give teeth to local and state efforts aimed at combatting fraud and abuses against immigrants by persons claiming to be lawyers.

We thank the Committee for hosting this hearing. Legal Services NYC is ready to work with you and the rest of the City Council in finding solutions to ensuring that New York City's immigrants receive the protections they deserve. Thank You.



Good afternoon. My name is Prarthana Gurung and I am here representing Adhikaar, a community-based organization working with the Nepali-speaking population in New York City, for human rights and social justice for all.

I invite you to listen to a story of one of our brave members, who stood up and shared with us her story to be told at today's hearing. While she has not yet been able to find justice for herself, this member has made it possible for us to be here today in telling her story, and in hopes of lobbying for legislation that can prevent future incidents of immigration fraud.

In 2010, our member was sharing an apartment with a roommate, who gave her false promises to bring her son from Nepal – her son whom she had not seen in more than eight years. This roommate connected our member with the roommate's own brother and sister-in-law, who falsely represented themselves as international business owners, disguising themselves as having the capacity and connections to reunite our member with her son. For one year, our member labored as a domestic worker, day in and day out, while she received calls from her roommate, and the roommate's brother constantly, harassing her for more and more money each time. Each time they called, they promised her that things were moving in the right direction, and that it wouldn't be long until she would be reunited with her son.

One year passed and nothing had happened, save for the over \$8,500 she had given to her roommate and the brother – money that was paid by hard work, sweat, tears, and countless loans made from close friends and even the member's employer. Not only was our member suffering psychological stress and harassment in the U.S, but also her son was equally as stressed and was being harassed by the roommate's brother in Nepal. Each promise ended in disappointment, and each claim of progress ended in despair.

This unfortunate situation affected our member's relationship with her husband, her son, and soon she too, became depressed and was admitted into the hospital not too soon afterwards. She then decided to ask for her money back altogether, and return back to Nepal. As expected, her roommate did not return the money immediately, holding our member off by telling her that they would give her the money tomorrow, the day after, next week for sure. But time was running out as our member's husband fell very ill, and she was forced to return back to Nepal before being able to pursue a case for justice.

Fortunately, our member was able to contact us about her experience and we were able to document her story before she left.

This story illustrates a common theme that many in our community face - the experience of long-time separation from their families which often leads to a level of despair, where they become vulnerable to immigration schemes such as the one told today.

This is not an uncommon story in our community. Adhikaar is deeply-rooted in the Northeastern Queens neighborhoods where the Nepali-speaking community has exponentially grown in the past ten years. We have heard countless stories of false promises told by many in positions of power within the community, that supposedly they have the ability to create papers out of thin air, but for a hefty price.

Last year, we were recently successful in aiding members to winning back a total of \$50,700 from a Nepali national who took the false identity of the sister of a famous Nepali politician, and used her supposed connections in committing immigration fraud. With the help of the Manhattan District Attorney's office, this individual by the name of Hit Shrestha, was arrested and charged with fraud in April of 2012.

We applaud the brave men and women who came forward to share their stories in the Hit Shrestha case, but most importantly, we want to raise the voice of our member whose story we shared today. Currently, there are two perpetrators of immigration fraud that we are aware of, these people are freely committing crimes against their community members, and we have had very little support from the Queens District Attorney's Office. While we have still been unable to get legal support from the borough, we continue to collect stories and testimonials from our members. The fight still continues.

The cases are numerous, but those who are willing to share their story to the public are few. If legislation such as resolution number 1515 passes, this would give those victims of immigration fraud, ammunition to fight back against the injustices they experienced. In the very words of our member herself: "I request you to give justice to all the victims."

Adhikaar, meaning 'rights' in Nepali, is a New York-based nonprofit organization working with Nepali-speaking communities to promote human rights and social justice for all.

Learn more about us at www.adhikaar.org.
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**AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
NEW YORK CHAPTER
2013-2014**

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December 17, 2013

Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
The New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Re: Preconsidered Resolutions: *Immigration Fraud Prevention Act of 2011 and Increase the criminal penalties for unscrupulous immigration service providers who violate state law*

Dear Speaker Quinn:

We are submitting this testimony on behalf of the New York Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), the nation's largest professional organization of immigration lawyers. We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this forum.

The AILA New York Chapter commends the New York City Council for these resolutions urging the United States Congress to pass legislation aimed at curbing abuses directed at the immigrant community by introducing criminal penalties against those who falsely claim that they are authorized to provide legal services, and urging the New York Legislature to pass legislation increasing the penalties for violations of the Immigrant Assistance Services Act.

As the U.S. Supreme Court recently noted, "nothing is ever simple with immigration law".¹ It is a highly complex, specialized practice.² Many agencies are involved in processing applications involved in immigration processes, including U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Department of State, and the Department of Labor. There are many forms available for many benefits. Adding layers upon layers

¹ *Padilla v. Kentucky*, 130 S.Ct. 1473, 1490 (2010)

² *Id.* at 1493.

of complications are the grounds of inadmissibility and removability, their related waivers, potential eligibility for benefits, potential penalties and forms of relief, and countless regulations, statutes, agency manuals, memoranda, and abstract legal concepts and principles that govern every aspect of immigration practice.

As noted in the proposed Declarations, embarking on an immigration case requires serious investments in time and money, and an adverse result can result in banishment from the U.S., permanent separation from family, and removal to potentially life-threatening conditions. The Supreme Court has therefore also stated that the ability to remain in the U.S. may be more important than any potential jail sentence,³ which is why legal representation in criminal proceedings must now include immigration advice.⁴

Thus, it is proper and just that City Council target “unlicensed and unqualified immigration service providers (ISPs).” However, we believe this phrase is misleading. Only attorneys and representatives accredited by the Department of Justice may provide legal services, which includes any advice on a matter involving one’s legal rights.

This is why both the code of federal regulations (CFR) and USCIS define the practice of immigration law in a manner that includes the selection and preparation of forms, in addition to any advice on any matter concerning one’s immigration status, such as how to answer questions on immigration forms, and what options an immigrant might have.⁵

Under federal law, the only people who can advise on immigration are attorneys and non-attorney representatives who are accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).⁶ This is consistent with New York State courts, which hold that legal advice includes the preparation of forms involving judgment regarding a legal claim,⁷ and they include within the practice of law the preparation of legal instruments of all kinds, all advice to clients, and all actions taken for clients in matters connected with the law.⁸

Likewise, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) instructs that ISPs cannot fill out forms or prepare customers for interviews, advise on how to file for or the chances of getting a particular immigration status, or to help to prepare for interviews.⁹

We therefore believe that terms such as “unlicensed or unqualified

³ *INS v. St. Cyr*, 533 U.S. 289, 323 (2001)

⁴ *Padilla v. Kentucky*, 130 S. Ct. 1473, 1480 (2010)

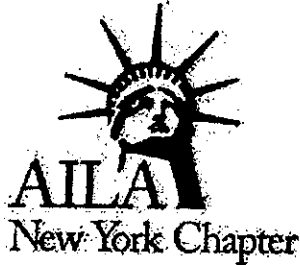
⁵ 8 C.F.R. §§ 1.1(i), 1001.1(i). (2012)

⁶ (<http://www.justice.gov/eoir/ra.html>), 8 C.F.R. §§ 292.1 (DHS) & 1292.1 (EOIR) (2012).

⁷ *Sussman v. Grado*, 746 N.Y.S. 2d 548, 553 (Dist. Ct. 2002).

⁸ *El Gemayel v. Seaman*, 533 N.E. 2d 245, 248 (N.Y. 1988).

⁹ http://www.nyc.gov/html/dca/html/business/immigration_service_provider.shtml



**AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
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immigration service provider” is confusing and misleading, and we therefore urge City Council to use the phrase “unauthorized practitioner of law” when identifying those not authorized to provide advice on immigration matters.¹⁰

Further, rather than amend GBL Article 28-C, we encourage City Council to urge the New York State Legislature to amend Judiciary Law § 478 (which defines the unauthorized practice of law) to include representations that a person who is not a licensed lawyer or a BIA accredited representative can select, prepare, or otherwise advise on how to answer questions on immigration forms, or provide advice as to what immigration options a person might have.

Because Judiciary Law § 485-A classifies a violation of § 478 as a Class E felony, such an amendment would accomplish the objectives of City Council. It would also have the additional benefits of 1) providing clarity as to whom immigrants can turn to for legal assistance regarding their immigration matters, and 2) and bringing New York State in line with federal law, which takes precedence over the state and local immigration laws.¹¹

We also urge City Council to consider legislation that would abstain from confusing terms such as “immigration services” and would instead adopt the definition utilized by the CFR and by USCIS for “legal advice”. Such legislation, by accurately defining immigration fraud, would make it easier to educate immigrant communities, aid local enforcement, resolve conflicts with federal law, and provide assurance to immigrants that the person giving legal advice has legal training, can be disciplined, and can have his or her license revoked for not following professional rules of conduct and ethics. It would further raise the standard of representation offered to immigrants by encouraging non-lawyers with a sincere interest in helping foreigners to obtain BIA accreditation.

¹⁰ It is worth noting that, similar to GBL Art. 28-C, New York, New York, Administrative Code §§ 20-770 to -777, Subchapter 14, [Local Law 31 (2004)] prevents ISPs from giving legal advice or engaging in the practice of law. However, it also states that ISPs can provide “any form of assistance . . . in relation to any proceeding, filing or action” for immigrants regarding their immigration status. Neither Local Law 31 nor GBL 28-C provides a specific list of activities that ISPs can and cannot do.

¹¹ *Arizona v. United States*, 132 S.Ct. 2492 (2012).

Additionally, while we look to Congress to adopt a more proactive approach to combating immigration fraud, we wish to note that the proposed H.R. 2936: Protecting Immigrants from Legal Exploitation Act of 2013, also calls for penalties for false representation as attorney, while also providing additional mechanisms for combatting immigration fraud, such as: directing for regulations to require identification of the individual who helped prepare forms; enabling immigrants to withdraw their petition or application if they did not know that the preparer was engaging in unauthorized practice of law, while providing them a means to correct the applications or petitions; allows an exception to the three- and ten-year bars to reentering the U.S. for aliens who left the U.S. on the advice of a person not authorized to practice law; directs for money to be paid for educational programs to demonstrate who can provide legal services; and allots for monies to be directed to "eligible nonprofit organizations" to provide direct legal services. We therefore recommend that City Council consider encouraging Congress to take action on this piece of proposed legislation as well.

Lastly, we urge City Council to look at the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project and to work with AILA and other community based organizations to continue to develop ideas and programs to increase both the quality and quantity of legal immigration services, the absence of which is a primary driver of immigration fraud.

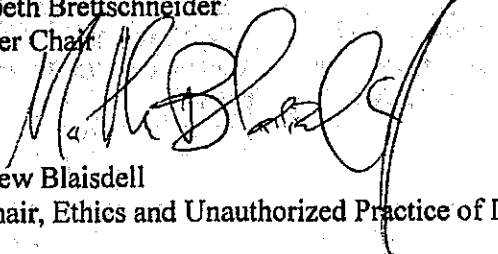
Accordingly, we join immigrants and their families, City Council, and the other groups and individuals testifying today to urge that Congress pass legislation combatting immigration fraud. Finally, we encourage City Council to consider legislation to similarly address the unauthorized practice of immigration law in New York City.

Thank you for your consideration.

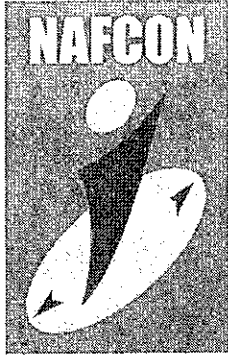
Sincerely,



Elizabeth Brettschneider
Chapter Chair



Matthew Blaisdell
Co-Chair, Ethics and Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee



**Testimony by Christina Hilo
Taskforce Haiyan Northeast Coordinator & National Alliance for Filipino Concerns Member**

**Res. No. 2057: Secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security to Grant Temporary Protected Status Designation of the Philippines and Eligible Filipino Nationals
New York City Council - Committee on Immigration
December 17, 2013**

Good afternoon, Chair Dromm and members of the Immigration Committee. I am Christina Hilo, Northeast Coordinator for Taskforce Haiyan and representative of the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON). Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Res. No. 2057, which calls upon the Secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security to grant Temporary Protected Status designation of the Philippines and eligible Filipino nationals.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, there is a broad campaign to seek Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Philippine Nationals in the United States. If granted, TPS would give to those who are eligible, the protection from deportation, travel authorization, and the ability to work legally while in the United States. TPS is a temporary benefit that does not lead to lawful permanent status or give any other immigration status. However, registration for TPS does not prevent one from applying for nonimmigrant status, filing for adjustment of status based on an immigration petition, and applying for any other immigration benefit or protection for which one may be eligible.

The process of achieving TPS entails two steps: first, the Philippine government makes a request to the US government for the designation; second, the US President must instruct the Department of Homeland Security to place the Philippines on the TPS list. TPS does not require a Congressional process. The campaign has been focused on demanding that Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, through Philippine Ambassador Jose Cuisia, make the request to the US government.

If passed, TPS could benefit hundreds of thousands of Filipinos in the US and many more of their families and loved ones back home. Following the massive devastation of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, designating the Philippines for TPS would provide critical relief.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify today. Taskforce Haiyan and NAFCON are also grateful for the Council's support for Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda relief efforts and for the campaign for TPS designation of the Philippines and eligible Filipino nationals.

December 17, 2013

Re: Res. No. 1515

Resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign S.1336, also known as the "Immigration Fraud Prevention Act of 2011," which would impose criminal penalties on any person who falsely represents himself or herself as an immigration attorney or as an accredited immigration representative.

Before the New York City Council, Immigration Committee by Irina Matiychenko, the New York Legal Assistance Group, Immigrant Protection Unit

Dear Members of Immigration Committee,

My name is Irina Matiychenko. I am the Director of the Immigrant Protection Unit of the New York Legal Assistance Group, NYLAG. I want to thank the members of the Immigration Committee for holding this important hearing and inviting NYLAG to present testimony today on the Resolution No.1515.

Founded in 1990, NYLAG is one of the largest providers of free legal services in New York. Services include direct representation, impact and class action litigation, consultation, community education, and advocacy. NYLAG has always been at the forefront of fighting immigration fraud, working closely with immigrant communities throughout New York City, and educating them about the potential dangers of dealing with unlicensed practitioners.

The widespread phenomena of unauthorized practice of law must be addressed head-on as we continue to fight for immigration reform. If we don't do it now, in addition to thousands

of those who have already been defrauded by the so called “immigration service providers” and “notarios,” thousands more immigrants will be taken advantage of by dishonest practitioners.

Today is high time to address this issue, and NYLAG applauds the New York City Council for this resolution aiming to further combat immigration fraud.

Immigration law is very complex, and its practice requires significant training, knowledge and experience. For immigrants, the consequences of following misleading and erroneous advice obtained from unlicensed legal practitioners can be devastating, and often irreversible. We at NYLAG know all too well what can happen when someone who misrepresents himself as an attorney attempts to file papers with USCIS. Immigrants who rely on misleading information can permanently jeopardize their chances of adjusting their status in the United States. Over the years, NYLAG has provided legal representation to many clients whose chances of legalizing their status in the United States were jeopardized by the so-called “notarios.” NYLAG has recognized the seriousness of this problem for a long time, and has been very proactive in protecting victims of immigration fraud. NYLAG has worked closely with immigrant communities and partner organizations trying to prevent immigration fraud.

It is due to NYLAG’s well-deserved reputation in fighting immigration fraud that Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman petitioned the Supreme Court of the State of New York to appoint NYLAG as a Receiver for International Immigrants Foundation (“IIF”), and International Professional Association (“IPA”). IIF and IPA were both shut down for defrauding immigrants with false promises of citizenship and legal residency, engaging in unauthorized practice of law, illegally charging exorbitant fees for services, and violating laws governing not-

for-profit corporations. Pursuant to the Order of Justice Barbara Kapnick NYLAG was appointed as the Receiver in the cases against these organizations.

Since 2012 NYLAG's staff has been working vigorously to review the IIF and IPA case files, which were left in various states of disarray and delinquency. We have just recently completed the review of more than ten thousand former cases of these two organizations, and we have firsthand knowledge of how many immigrants were deprived of their chances to obtain any immigration benefits because they entrusted their lives and their dreams to people who defrauded them and took advantage of them.

That is why we support this resolution and believe that the new proposed regulation will be an important and significant step in combating immigration fraud nationwide.

However, we believe that the goal to target "unlicensed and unqualified immigration service providers (ISPs) contains some confusion. First, it is not clear what criteria would be used to identify unqualified service providers and, furthermore, it implies that qualified service providers, who are not attorneys or accredited representatives, can still provide immigration services. Even though the last statement is accurate under the current State Law, GBL Article 28-C, it contradicts the very goal of the Proposed Federal Bill to only allow attorneys and accredited representatives to represent immigrants in any immigration proceeding. We recognize that GBL Article 28-C, passed in 2006, was a well-intentioned effort to target abuses by non-legal practitioners, who often provide incorrect legal advice and engage in unethical behavior, but it has not reached the goal of preventing continued harm to immigrant populations and has been an inadequate response to this problem. Unfortunately, there are many examples of continued immigration fraud after passage of GBL Article 28-C.

In particular, this law incorrectly implies that merely assisting with immigration forms is unrelated to giving the legal advice. Indeed, the signing of a contract with a client to assist him/her in the completion of immigration forms is equivalent to providing constructive legal advice that it is appropriate for that client to submit such forms. If this advice is unsound, it can have severe legal consequences for the client: for instance, if an applicant for naturalization has a criminal record, an Immigration Service Provider who blindly fills out the form runs a high risk of getting the client deported.

For these reasons NYLAG strongly opposed the passage of the law in the past and now respectfully requests City Council to urge the New York State Legislature rather than amending GBL Article 28-C, to amend Judiciary Law § 478, which defines UPL in New York State, to acknowledge that, under federal law, 8 CFR 292 and 1292, UPL includes any selection and/or preparation of immigration forms, advice on how to answer questions on immigration forms, or dispensing advice on possible immigration options by anyone who is not a licensed attorney or BIA Accredited Representative.

However, even though the proposed piece of legislation is of great importance and will deter immigration fraud and the unlicensed and illegal practice of law, some issues still remain unaddressed.

The proposed regulation, if passed, will effectively prevent some immigration fraud and penalize those who committed it, which is very important. However, in cases where immigration fraud has already happened, the victims of the fraud are left without any remedies. The damage they suffered as a result of fraudulent representation in most cases is irreversible. The Immigration fraud victims who cooperate in its criminal investigation and/or prosecution deserve

to have their immigration status legalized much the same way as other immigrant crime victims can legalize their status through the S, T, and U petition processes.

Once again, I would like to acknowledge the proactive position of NY City Council in advancing immigrants' rights. That is why I respectfully request that this forum encourage Congress to pass legislation that not only prevents immigration fraud, but also addresses the rights and remedies available to victims of immigration fraud.

Respectfully submitted by



Irina Matiychenko, Esq.
Director of Immigrant Protection Unit
New York Legal Assistance Group

December 17, 2013

Testimony to the New York City Council Committee on Immigration regarding pending resolutions on immigration fraud.

Good afternoon Chair Dromm and members of the New York City Council Committee on Immigration. My name is Jennie Encalada and I am with the New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE).

NICE is a community based non-profit organization that for over 10 years NICE has been serving, organizing and advocating with low-wage immigrant workers. As part of our work, since 2010 we have had an active campaign to end fraudulent, predatory and substandard practices of businesses targeting our community. Key among these businesses with shady practices are multi-service businesses providing some sort of "immigration services" amongst the provision of travel services, tax preparation, notary services, or other services, stand alone ISPs, and also unscrupulous attorneys. My organization is also a member of the 'Anti-Immigration Fraud Working Group' (AIFWG), a newly formed working group of community based, advocacy and legal services organizations working together on legislative, advocacy and outreach initiatives to tackle the issue of the immigration services fraud in New York City and New York State.

The immigration laws in this country are very complicated, and the consequences of violating the laws are very serious. It is crucial that immigrants have access to sound advice. However, the barriers such as cost, language, and uncertainty of who can help leave immigrants vulnerable to predatory individuals who have ties to the community and who are in a position to exploit them with false or misleading promises.

This is often the case with notario públicos, who in many Latin American countries are very experienced, licensed lawyers. However, in the U.S., a notary public can only certify that the person signing a document is who she claims to be. In other countries, travel agents are authorized to assist in applying for visas, though this is not true in the U.S., as these services involve decisions that directly affect a person's legal rights.

The potential consequences of bad advice are many and serious: immigrants can lose substantial amounts of time and money; they potentially miss out on opportunities for immigration benefits for which they may actually be eligible; they may be placed into removal (deportation) proceedings; they may be held in federal detention facilities, where they lack many of the constitutional protections granted U.S. citizens; or they may miss their immigration hearings, resulting in orders of removal. Families are ripped apart, and there is often little that can be done to repair the damage.

Moreover, no advice can be just as harmful as bad advice. Immigrants are not in a position to understand the nuances of American immigration law. Even if the person giving advice states that she can't help, by holding herself out as an expert, she implies that there is nothing that can be done.

New York State regulates the provision of immigration services via General Business Law, Article 28-C (GBL § 460) and New York City regulates the same through Administrative Code §§ 20-770 to -777, (Local Law 31). As a consumer affairs statutes, these laws focus on requirements pertaining to contracts, signage, disclaimers in advertising, document retention, maintenance of a surety, and preventing providers from falsely holding themselves out as attorneys or from providing legal advice. Both laws draw a distinction between those authorized to provide legal representation and those who cannot—identified as immigration assistance service providers (ISPs). However, these concepts do not adequately address the issues inherent to the practice of law. In particular, they do not define legal advice, and do not address issues relating to competency, ineffective assistance, or avoiding conflicts of law with the federal regulations or state courts. In fact, while Local Law 31 prevents providers from giving legal advice or engaging in the practice of law, it also states that ISPs can provide “any form of assistance . . . in relation to any proceeding, filing or action” for immigrants regarding their immigration status. Neither law specifies what ISPs can and cannot do.

Further, enforcement tends to rely on customer complaints. However, immigrants, particularly those who “live in the shadows”, rarely file complaints with a government agency alleging injuries at the hands of an ISP without organizational assistance.

Thus, while both GBL § 460 and Local Law 31 provide strong protections against abusive business practices, they simultaneously provide an air of legitimacy for non-lawyers (notarios, travel agents, multiservices, quasi-religious organizations, etc.) to provide an unlimited amount of services pertaining to immigration status, with no standards regarding the quality of those services, and no method by which customers can complain if they receive bad advice. The very fact that the law codifies the idea of an ISP as a legitimate business lends these businesses an air of legitimacy.

Indeed, my organization recently co-authored a study that found that multi-services agencies and stand alone ISPs regularly advertise that they provide legal advice, that they do not follow the signage or contract requirements of the local and state laws, and that they falsely guarantee success.

The report, co-authored by NICE and the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center, shows that predatory, substandard, and fraudulent practices are commonplace, and not merely limited to a few bad actors. The report shows that in a local study of Queens business providing “immigration services”

- 23% of ISPs advertised that they provide legal advice;
- 23% of ISPs advertised that they are an “immigration attorney office”;
- No ISP had a “not an attorney” sign posted;
- 15% of ISP staff identified themselves as “immigration specialists”
- 46.2% advertised that they provided “legal translations.”

Many ISPs advertised on-site, non-immigration services such as tax preparation (61.5%), car insurance (8%), legal translations (46%), real estate (31%), notary public (46.2%), and divorce law (23%).

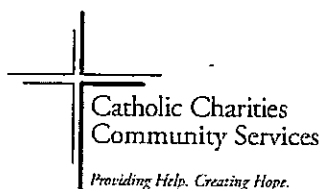
In addition, 41.4% of survey respondents felt that they were victims of fraud at an ISP.

Non-lawyers have not acquired professional training, they are not subject to professional or ethical obligations, they are not subject to effective oversight, and they are not required to carry malpractice insurance. This absence of accountability, combined with the potential for significant profits, creates an extremely powerful incentive for multiservices, travel agencies, quasi-religious organizations, notaries, and the like to identify themselves as ISPs and purport to be able to provide advice on matters affecting their immigrants' legal rights. It is in their financial interest to provide false assurances, to encourage immigrant to apply for benefits that they are not eligible for, and to provide false information regarding the status of a case. When their clients complain, they are often rude and dismissive and sometimes threaten to report the clients to authorities.

The immigrant community would be better served by limiting so called 'immigration services' to clerical activities such as providing translations or transcriptions, taking photographs, and arranging medical appointments

Because of the importance and complexity of these matters, we believe that efforts should focus on providing access to quality counsel, rather than throwing open the doors to fraudulent practices for this highly vulnerable community. Because immigrants without lawful presence are extremely hesitant to report the type of behavior described above, it is all the more important that any bill addressing this issue contains strong, specific language with real penalties to enable enforcement agencies to effectively prosecute violations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

TESTIMONY BY C. MARIO RUSSELL DIRECTOR AND SENIOR ATTORNEY IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SERVICES CATHOLIC CHARITIES COMMUNITY SERVICES

DECEMBER 17, 2013

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and committee members. My name is Mario Russell. I am the Director of Immigrant and Refugee Services for Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of New York. I am here today to speak briefly in support of two important issues brought forward today by this Committee—the designation of the Philippines for Temporary Protected Status and enhancing the penalties for perpetrators of legal fraud against immigrant victims.

Before I begin, let me say a word about Catholic Charities and its Immigrant and Refugee Services. For nearly 100 years the Catholics Charities of the Archdiocese of New York has worked to help immigrants and refugees fleeing persecution and abuse to find a safe haven in the United States, reunite with their families legally, obtain proper work authorization, apply for naturalization, learn English and civics, and better integrate into the US workforce. Because of the extent of its work with immigrants and refugees, Catholic Charities recently merged five

important programs, which—tomorrow!—will relocate as a new Division at 80 Maiden Lane. They are: Immigration Legal Services, Refugee Resettlement Services, the multilingual New Americans Hotline (formerly the New York State Immigration Hotline), the Unaccompanied Minors Detention Program, and the recently added International Center, which offers over 45 English as a Second Language, job readiness, and culture and integration classes through a network of 200 volunteers. We invite and welcome all the members of this committee and of the council to visit our new program facilities in the coming months.

Catholic Charities joins in this Committee's call for the Department of Homeland Security to designate the Philippines for Temporary Protected Status. In early November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan struck Southeast Asia and, in particular, the Philippines. In its wake, the typhoon left 6,000 Filipinos dead, 4 million displaced—their homes destroyed or damaged, and over 2.5 million in need of emergency food aid. Haiyan was the second deadliest Philippine typhoon on record and the most powerful ever recorded. While we are proud that Catholic Relief Services has been in the forefront of assistance in the Philippines from day one, TPS is a necessary and compassionate response—as it was for Haiti after the earthquake, El Salvador and Honduras after the hurricane, and Montserrat after the volcanic eruption—that will allow for continued relief and rebuilding to occur in that country. The Catholic Church in the US and the Archdiocese are strengthened by and grateful for the

presence of Filipino nationals in our parishes and want to stand in solidarity with them at this moment.

Catholic Charities also joins in this Committee's call for the enhancement of penalties against perpetrators of deliberate, intentional, and planned legal fraud against immigrant victims. We believe that effective and robust prosecution, with meaningful sanctions, is as essential to ensure the protection of future victims and immigrant communities as it is to ensure the integrity of laws and the legal process. During its weekly Thursday immigration legal intake and consultations, Catholic Charities attorneys and accredited representatives all too frequently encounter immigrants who have lost their life savings, or have taken on debt they can't sustain, to pay the thousands of dollars in fees charged by predators who promised to do something they knew wasn't possible and who claimed to have the "license", authority, and experience with immigration to do it. These victims come to our office confused, suffering, and worst of all, with very little hope left.

Next month, Catholic Charities and the St. John's University School of Law Immigration Litigation will be representing the case of Mrs. S-, a woman from Mali who was placed in deportation proceedings because a fraudulent practitioner convinced her then-husband to file a late-amnesty (what's called "LULAC") application for her. She was 18 years old at the time. Several years later, when Mrs. S- discovered what happened, she wrote a letter to DHS and withdrew the

application, but it was too late. The application had been denied and Mrs. S- was scheduled to appear in Immigration Court. Now single, Mrs. S- is raising three U.S.-born children, all of them under 10 years old—one who is partially blind in one eye and another who is at risk of FGM should she go back with her mother to Mali. What's worse, because Mrs. S- is in deportation proceedings, it will be far more difficult for her to benefit from any future immigration reform law, should it be enacted. Like her, innocent and unwitting victims of fraud therefore suffer twice the punishment.

New York's immigrants are in need of competent, low-cost or free immigration legal services. This is what we do at Catholic Charities. But New York's immigrants also need to know that services exist, where they are located, and when they are available. This is what our New Americans Hotline does in New York City and throughout New York State. With the understanding that the best first step to protect against fraud and abuse is to give *good* information, we answer over 25,000 immigration calls a year and make over 50,000 referrals to legal services and resettlement providers. We therefore urge that the necessary and appropriate outreach and information tools—beginning with the New York State New Americans Hotline—be made a part of any enhanced protections against the abuse of immigrants.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**AABANY's Testimony before NYC Council on Temporary Protected Status for the
Philippines and Immigration Fraud Prevention (12/17/13)**

[Tsui Yee Opening Greeting and Thank You for Opportunity to Testify]

The Asian American Bar Association of New York thanks Council Members Eugene and Dromm for bringing forth this resolution to call upon the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to grant Temporary Protected Status designation for the Philippines. We join them in urging that TPS designation be granted in light of the devastating effects that Typhoon Haiyan has had on citizens and nationals of the Philippines.

The loss of life and property caused by Typhoon Haiyan has been catastrophic; more than 6,000 people were killed, while over 4 million people have been displaced from their homes. Victims and their families are in dire need of assistance, and if granted, Temporary Protected Status would unquestionably aid the Philippines in its efforts to recover from such unspeakable loss.

Temporary protected status is a temporary immigration status granted to eligible nationals of designated countries pursuant to Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. It is granted by the Department of Homeland Security to foreign countries who are unable to adequately handle the return of its nationals due to certain events - for example, in times of ongoing armed conflict, an environmental disaster or epidemic, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions.

If granted TPS, eligible nationals of the Philippines can obtain employment authorization; can obtain authorization to travel outside the United States; and would also be protected against removal from the United States. It is estimated that 500,000 Filipinos living in the United States would qualify for TPS. Studies have shown that when individuals are granted work authorization, they are able to increase their income by 15%. This means that if given TPS, Filipino nationals would be able to significantly help their family members and countrymen by increasing the remittances that they can send back to their homeland.

Yesterday, the government of the Philippines formally requested TPS designation from the Department of Homeland Security. The United States has a proud tradition of providing temporary humanitarian relief to fellow countries in times of urgent need, as when it granted TPS to Haiti in 2010 following the devastating earthquake. In light of the above, AABANY supports the grant of Temporary Protected Status to the Philippines.

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Moreover, AABANY strongly supports City Council Resolutions 1515 and ____, and commends the City Council for its efforts to combat immigration fraud and the unauthorized practice of law.

Resolution 1515 calls upon the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign S. 1336, the "Immigration Fraud Prevention Act of 2011," which would impose criminal penalties on any

individual who falsely represents him or herself as an immigration attorney or an accredited immigration representative. Resolution No. ___ calls upon the New York Legislature to increase the criminal penalties for unscrupulous immigration service providers who violate state law.

As a bar association representing the interests of New York Asian-American attorneys, judges, law professors, law students, and other legal professionals, AABANY is acutely aware of the harm that unscrupulous and fraudulent immigration service providers have caused to the immigrant community. The unauthorized practice of law is a problem that has particularly plagued the Asian Pacific American immigrant community, due to language and cultural barriers, among other reasons.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Asians were our country's fastest-growing race or ethnic group in 2012. Not only did the Asian population rise by 530,000, or 2.9 percent, in the preceding year, to 18.9 million, but moreover, more than 60 percent of this growth came from international migration. As more and more immigrants apply for lawful permanent resident status in the United States, the potential for unauthorized practitioners to take advantage of this vulnerable population will no doubt increase. The immigration law is a notoriously difficult and complex area to navigate. Unfortunately, many bad actors exploit this confusion and complexity for their own financial gain, to the detriment of the victim.

As Co-Chair of AABANY's Immigration and National Law Committee, I have worked together with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office Immigrant Affairs Program in putting together seminars and presentations to educate the immigrant community on how to avoid being the victim of immigration fraud. At these presentations, we have been able to educate the public on how to identify common scams and how to avoid them; how to determine whether the individual they are considering on hiring is a licensed attorney or accredited immigration representative; and how to report a crime if they were indeed the victim of immigration fraud.

Throughout the course of the seminars that we held and which were attended by several hundred audience members, it was clear to us the prevalence and enormity of this problem. Victims of immigration fraud not only suffer substantial financial loss in terms of often exorbitant fees that they pay to the unscrupulous service providers – many times their life savings if not weeks' or months' worth of modest earnings – but often find themselves facing deportation or detention as a result of an improperly filed petition or application.

In light of the distinct possibility that TPS designation may be granted to the Philippines, the potential for more bad actors to further prey upon the immigrant population is almost a given. It is more important than ever that criminal penalties be enhanced to deter and punish those who violate state law.

Thank you.

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The Asian American Bar Association of New York was formed in 1989 as a not-for-profit corporation to represent the interests of New York Asian-American attorneys, judges, law professors, legal professionals, legal assistants or paralegals and law students. The mission of AABANY is to improve the study and practice of law, and the fair administration of justice for all by ensuring the meaningful participation of Asian-Americans in the legal profession.



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December 17, 2013

The New York City Council
Committee on Immigration
c/o Council Member Daniel Dromm, Chair
250 Broadway, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Resolution 2057-2013
Calling upon the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to grant
Temporary Protected Status designation of the Philippines and eligible Filipino nationals

Dear Council Members:

The United States has a long history of granting relief to people all over the world during their darkest times. We are a generous nation respected worldwide for our humanitarian efforts. Recently, in January 2010, the United States Department of Homeland Security granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to the people of Haiti present in the United States after their home country suffered a horrific earthquake that decimated its capitol and infrastructure, and killed thousands of people. TPS is an integral component of the comprehensive humanitarian relief the United States may bring to bear against a natural disaster crippling a fellow country and its people.

A great majority of the over 300,000 Filipino-Americans living in the State of New York reside in the City of New York. I, myself, am a second generation Filipino-American, born and raised in New York. I do not have the words to express the grief and empathy I have felt over the past five and a half weeks since Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines. The images of orphaned children, widowed spouses and abandoned corpses are too much to bear.

Typhoon Haiyan wrought unprecedented devastation when it rampaged across the Central Philippines, leaving almost 6,000 people dead and more than 27,000 injured. Haiyan also displaced more than 4 million people, affected 12 million others and left hundreds of millions of dollars in damage.

The countless stories from family, friends and clients about the human toll inflicted on our countrymen – our *kababayans* – are too graphic and painful to tell. But I will share with you the story of my Filipina client Jocelyn, who lives and works in upstate New York. She recounted her story to me. After Typhoon Haiyan hit, she could not contact her parents who lived in her hometown of Tacloban. It was absolute torture for her to watch footage on television of her hometown, wiped off the face of the Earth, and not knowing whether her parents were dead or alive. She could not reach them for days. Finally – after four excruciating days – she received a short text message from her father telling her that, not to worry, he and her mother were alive.

But their home, their belongings, everything they had, was gone. Her parents had borrowed a stranger's mobile telephone in order to get word to her that they were alive, and with nothing but the clothes on their backs, they had been traveling on foot like refugees in their our country hoping to reach relatives on another Philippine island hundreds of miles away to find refuge. There was nothing left, nothing to stay for in the city where Jocelyn and generations of her family had been born and raised. Jocelyn's dream to return to Tacloban to marry her childhood sweetheart next year will never be realized. Jocelyn came to me to ask how she could help her family reunite, or at least how she could help them from so far away.

Here, in New York City and throughout the United States, with these tragic images emblazoned on our minds, we have witnessed our Filipino-American community unite and respond to the humanitarian needs of our *kababayans* in swift and bold acts of selflessness and sacrifice. There has been no shortage of fundraising events or donation drives. Seemingly, we cannot give enough. I have never been so proud of our Filipino-American community.

The United States government has pledged over 200 million dollars in foreign aid, equipment and other relief services and materials. And, the U.S. military and USAID forces have been on the ground in the directly-affected areas of the Philippines since shortly after Haiyan hit. But so much more must be done to help the Philippines and its people to fully recover. Indeed, the recovery will span years. Worldwide relief efforts continue to supply much needed aid and money to the Philippines. But eventually, those resources will dwindle.

The best and most direct way to deliver immediate and long-term relief for Filipinos is the support from family and friends overseas. Temporary Protected Status affords an amazing opportunity for Filipinos in the U.S. to help their loved ones suffering back home. Prior to Typhoon Haiyan, at least 10% of the Philippine Gross Domestic Product was due to foreign monetary remittances. By granting TPS and work authorization to Filipinos living in the United States, the increase in direct monetary remittances to Filipinos in the Philippines from their loved ones in the United States may increase by 15%.

From this heartbreaking human tragedy of Typhoon Haiyan, the U.S. government can create hope and opportunity for Filipinos in the United States by empowering them to help the country they love so dearly and, in turn, rebuild the Philippine economy.

I have with me eight (8) separate advocacy sign-on documents, addressed to the U.S. government and the Philippine government, seeking TPS designation for the Philippines that are signed by U.S. citizens, Filipinos and non-Filipinos, scores of U.S. Senators and Representatives

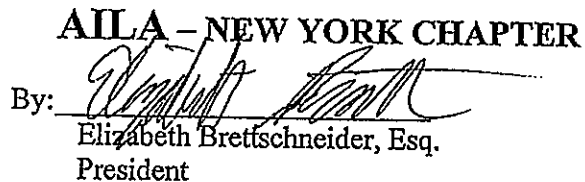
*Guerrero Yee LLP
The New York City Council
Committee on Immigration
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December 17, 2013
Page 3 of 3*

from both major political parties, and hundreds of advocacy organizations from all over the country. Clearly, there is comprehensive national support for TPS for the Philippines.

Therefore, today, united with all of these concerned people, government leaders, non-governmental organizations, and millions of Filipinos here and all over the world, we respectfully request that you support New York City Council Resolution 2057-2013 calling upon U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson to designate Temporary Protected Status for the Philippines. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

GUERRERO YEE LLP
By: 
Ryo M. Guerrero, Esq.

AILA - NEW YORK CHAPTER
By: 
Elizabeth Brettschneider, Esq.
President

RMG/mf
Attachments



NFALA

NATIONAL FILIPINO AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

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November 24, 2013

Honorable Benigno Aquino III
President of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace
PHILIPPINES

Dear President Aquino:

We extend our most heartfelt concerns and prayers to all those suffering in the Philippines due to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. The National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA) is the national association of Filipino-American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students in the United States. NFALA represents the interests of Filipino-American attorneys throughout the country and among state and local Filipino-American bar associations. Its members include corporate counsel, large firm lawyers, solo practitioners, legal service and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government.

As Filipinos and Filipino-Americans, we seek to provide our greatest support to the Philippines and its citizens because of our common culture and sense of humanity. We are saddened by the devastating effects of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda upon the Philippines and our relatives and friends – our *kababayans*. The human calamity on a national scale is only beginning to be realized. Hundreds of thousands of Filipinos displaced, families torn apart, and children orphaned find themselves as refugees within their own country. While certain regions of the Visayas were more severely affected by Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, the repercussions are felt painfully throughout the entire country.

The unprecedented devastation wrought by Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda qualifies the Philippines for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) pursuant to the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act, Section 244. TPS is available to a country when certain conditions exist, such as a natural disaster, within that country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from safely returning home. Certainly, for the Philippines to reabsorb thousands of its nationals currently abroad during this national emergency would only burden further an already strained infrastructure dealing with the most horrific typhoon ever recorded to hit land in the world.



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TPS allows certain Filipino nationals in the United States:

1. to remain legally in the United States even if he/she is potentially or deemed deportable;
2. to receive authorization to travel internationally; and
3. to obtain work authorization – a benefit that will deliver an immediate and lasting positive impact on the Philippine people and the Philippine economy.

It is estimated that half a million Filipinos within the U.S. would be eligible for TPS. The current U.S. immigration law and policy in place does not provide the relief set forth above to those 500,000 Filipinos who may potentially benefit from TPS. Studies have documented an increase in income of at least 15% when individuals are granted work authorization. Significantly, TPS would allow these Filipinos to secure employment authorization in the United States and, collectively, remit even greater sums of relief and recovery money back to the Philippines.

Prior to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, 10% of the Philippine Gross Domestic Product was attributed to remittances from its nationals abroad. TPS provides a unique opportunity to strengthen the Philippine economy during its time of need, and allows Filipino nationals living in the United States to contribute to rebuilding their country through the form of increased remittances.

By definition, TPS status is temporary – granted in periods ranging from six (6) to eighteen (18) consecutive months. In the past, these designations have been extended, particularly if the government of the country so desires. The Philippines may also seek to withdraw the designation. While we respect there are unique obstacles and issues facing the Philippines resulting from this unprecedented natural disaster, the United States has a long history of providing temporary relief to citizens of countries affected by natural disasters such as Japan and El Salvador. It is constructive to note, by way of comparative example, that the country of El Salvador has elected to continually renew its TPS designation with the United States since its initial designation. In 2001, a natural disaster gravely affected a percentage of El Salvador's total actual landmass, similar to the percentage of the total actual landmass of the Philippines affected by Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. TPS has strengthened the economy of El Salvador considerably – since their TPS designation in 2001, the percentage of the GDP comprised of remittances has grown to 17% annually. TPS could similarly strengthen the economy of the Philippines over many years to come.



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Any limitation to TPS, such as allowing only persons who resided in the area most heavily affected by Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, would reduce the overall economic benefit for the Philippines and its people. Also, such a limitation could create the potential for fraudulent claims of eligibility from persons who resided outside of those areas. The temporary nature of TPS alone is a sufficient limiting factor under the law. This unprecedented natural disaster has impacted each person in the Philippines in a unique manner – with none necessarily less profound than the other. Thus, all Filipino people should be eligible to benefit from TPS.

It is particularly important to understand that there is widespread and strong support throughout the United States – among its citizenry and government officials – for TPS designation for the Philippines. The chorus of voices growing increasingly louder in support of TPS includes those persons of Philippine decent to those without, united bipartisan political support, the legal community and religious leaders. Specifically, attached are the following public documents – addressed to The White House and/or DHS – all in clear and firm support of TPS designation for the Philippines:

- i. November 14, 2013 letter issued by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), emphatically urging for TPS for the Philippines, citing that while the Philippines addresses “the after-effects of one of the most powerful storms ever recorded on land, the United States can help in many ways, in addition to the aid that is already underway;”
- ii. November 15, 2013 letter issued by the New York Legal Assistance Group and signed by eighteen (18) additional organizations, declares, “[a]ll Filipino nationals living in the US should be granted temporary protected status;”
- iii. November 18, 2013 letter issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, imploring, “[g]iven the widespread loss of life and property caused by Typhoon Haiyan on November 7, 2013, in our view the Philippines warrants an immediate grant of TPS;”
- iv. November 20, 2013 letter issued by the New York City Bar, advocating for TPS because it is an opportunity “to put humanitarian principles to work by empowering Filipino nationals temporarily living in the United States to aid in the recovery of their own homeland and to alleviate the tragic consequences befalling the Philippines;”



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- v. November 20, 2013 letter issued by twenty U.S. Senators – and others continue to sign on – explaining that “[t]he United States has demonstrated its commitment to assisting the Philippines with the recovery effort through foreign aid, military assistance and relief supplies, but we must also assist the victims’ families in whatever way possible. Therefore, we respectfully request that you extend TPS to Filipino nationals residing in the United States and support the reunification of U.S. citizens and their Filipino family members;” and
- vi. November 20, 2013 press release issued by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), wherein NAPABA joins AILA in its formal plea “that the Philippines be designated for TPS will all due haste.”

The granting of TPS does not require an act of the U.S. Congress. Instead, ultimately, TPS designation for the Philippines would be determined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), with clear guidance from the President of the United States, and in close consultation with the U.S. Department of State and other Executive Branch departments. Customarily, before the DHS issues TPS designation for any country, a formal written letter is issued by the subject foreign country. For example, in order to secure TPS for the Philippines a letter requesting such designation would be sent from your office as President of the Philippines (or, upon your direction, from the office of Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C.) to the office of the President of the United States.

Based upon the foregoing, we respectfully request that you exercise the full power and authority of your office and issue to the U.S. government a formal written request seeking Temporary Protected Status for the Philippines, effective immediately and lasting for eighteen (18) consecutive months. To further support Filipino nationals both in the Philippines and in the United States, please also request the following additional humanitarian relief measures be adopted:

1. Filipino nationals should be granted automatic extension of nonimmigrant visas to give them time to apply for even longer extensions.
2. Humanitarian parole should be granted generally to all Filipinos who are waiting for immigrant visas, allowing these individuals to unite with their families in the United States immediately.
3. DHS should temporarily suspend all deportation orders to the Philippines.



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Respectfully, also attached is a proposed draft letter that we offer to the Philippines which it may use as a guide when preparing any formal written request for TPS from the United States government.

From this heartbreaking human tragedy of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, the Philippines can create hope and opportunity for approximately half a million Filipinos in the United States by empowering them to help the country they love so dearly.

Thank for your time and thoughtful consideration of this urgent humanitarian matter.

Sincerely,

Rudy Figueroa, President
Rio Guerrero, Immigration Committee Chair
National Filipino American Lawyers Association

Loida Nicolas Lewis

American Immigration Lawyers Association

Filipino American Lawyers Association of New York

Kalusugan Coalition

New York Legal Assistance Group

Filipino Diocesan Apostolate – Diocese of Brooklyn, New York

Filipino American National Historical Society – Metro New York

November 25, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C.
The United States of America

Dear President Obama:

The unprecedented devastation wrought by Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda has caused immeasurable suffering to the Philippines and our people. With the strength and resolve of the Filipino people and the support and generosity of the United Nations, the United States, other countries, and non-governmental organizations, we are confident that our country will meet the challenge of recovery and rebuild even stronger. Even through this tragedy, the Filipino people both here in the Philippines and abroad, remain deeply committed to helping their nation and countrymen in need.

To assist with the Philippine recovery after this horrific natural disaster, we formally request the U.S. government immediately designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS), under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act, Section 244, to all eligible Philippine nationals within the United States, for a period of eighteen (18) consecutive months.

We believe that granting TPS to eligible Filipinos in the United States will empower those Filipinos to assist further in the relief effort. In addition, we request that the United States consider humanitarian parole and expedited visa processing for Filipinos who have U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident relatives in the U.S. – in particular, those Filipinos who are orphaned, lost relatives, or endured considerable hardship due to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. Further, we request that the United States consider an automatic extension of non-immigrant visas, for Filipinos currently within the U.S. Finally, we request that the United States temporarily suspend all deportations of our nationals to the Philippines.

We appreciate your consideration of our earnest requests to help the Philippines and our people. From the tragedy of Typhoon Haiyan, together our countries can create hope and empowerment for the Filipino people in both our nations.

Sincerely,

Benigno Aquino III
President of the Philippines

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Rand Beers
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Acting Secretary Beers:

In light of the tremendous devastation suffered by the Philippines as a result of Typhoon Haiyan, we write to express our deep concern about the impact of this tragedy on Filipinos in the United States. We ask that you consider granting Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to eligible Filipino nationals within the United States and additional avenues of relief for certain Filipinos with U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident family members in the U.S.

As you know, Typhoon Haiyan has wrought unparalleled destruction and tragic loss of life in the Philippines. The U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center estimated the storm's sustained winds at 195 miles per hour at landfall, which if confirmed would make Haiyan one of the most powerful storms in recorded history. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced with no shelter or clean water and millions face food shortages.

The United States has granted TPS to other nationals after similarly traumatic events. Following Hurricane Mitch in 1999, the United States granted TPS to Honduran and Nicaraguan nationals; following several earthquakes in Central America in 2001, the United States granted TPS to Salvadorans; and following the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the United States granted TPS to Haitians. Victims of Typhoon Haiyan clearly meet the eligibility requirements for TPS, and we urge you to extend this designation as soon as possible. Providing TPS is critical to humanitarian relief efforts as it both protects individuals who would be endangered by returning to their country of origin and it allows the home country more time to recover before accepting returnees.

It is important to note that granting TPS to Filipino nationals will not endanger our security. An alien is ineligible for TPS if he has a criminal background or poses a threat to national security. The decision to deny, withdraw or terminate TPS is in the sole discretion of the government; there is no judicial review of such a determination. Moreover, TPS is not a backdoor to U.S. citizenship. TPS does not make a beneficiary eligible for legal permanent resident status or U.S. citizenship. When the TPS designation of a country is terminated, beneficiaries revert to the same immigration status they maintained before the designation.


We also ask that you consider humanitarian parole and expedited visa processing for Filipinos who have U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident relatives in the U.S. and approved or pending family petitions, especially Filipinos who have been orphaned, lost relatives in the storm or

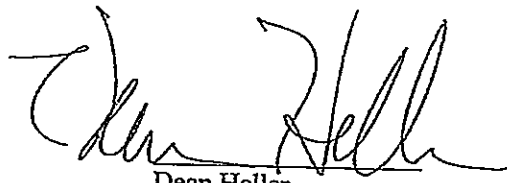
suffer other serious hardships. We also ask that you consider an automatic extension of visas, in categories where an extension is feasible, for Filipinos currently present in the U.S. Lastly, we ask that you consider temporarily suspending deportations to the Philippines and utilizing alternatives to detention in appropriate cases.

The United States has demonstrated its commitment to assisting the Philippines with the recovery effort through foreign aid, military assistance and relief supplies, but we must also assist the victims' families in whatever way possible. Therefore, we respectfully request that you extend TPS to Filipino nationals residing in the United States and support the reunification of U.S. citizens and their Filipino family members.


Thank you for your consideration.

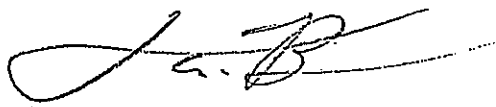
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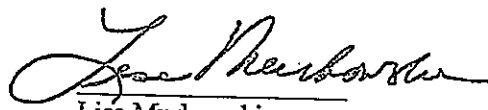

Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Dean Heller
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

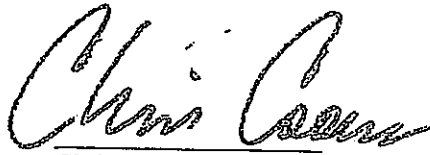

Marco Rubio
United States Senator


Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

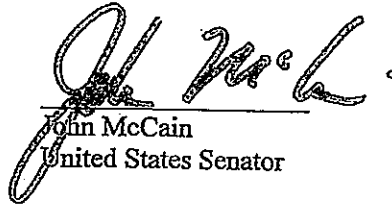

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator


Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

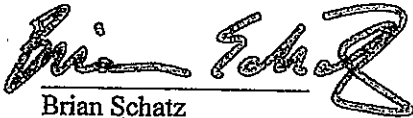

Mark Kirk
United States Senator



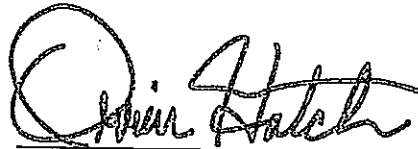
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



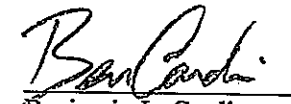
John McCain
United States Senator



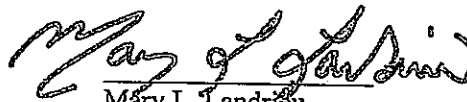
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



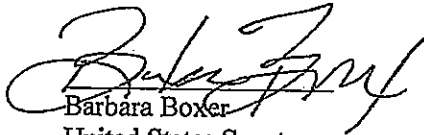
Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator



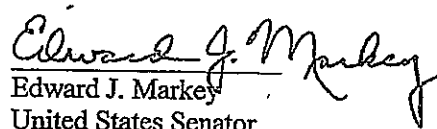
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



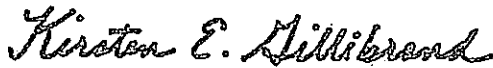
Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator




Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



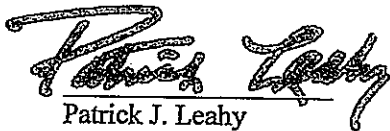
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



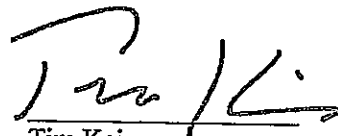
Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



Harry Reid
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



AILA National Office
Suite 300
1331 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Tel: 202.507.7600
Fax: 202.783.7853

www.aila.org

November 14, 2013

Hon. Rand Beers
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Beers:

As the U.S. and others strive to get assistance and aid to the Philippines in the wake Typhoon Haiyan, hearts all over the world go out to the victims of this disaster. While that nation struggles to cope with the after-effects of one of the most powerful storms ever recorded on land, the United States can help in many ways, in addition to the aid that is already underway. One way we can help is to limit the strain on that country's resources by designating the Philippines for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under §244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

AILA is the national association of immigration lawyers with more than 13,000 members. It was established in 1946 to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members. AILA has supported the judicious grant of TPS in limited cases in the past based on a studied consideration of the totality of the circumstances. Just less than four years ago, DHS and USCIS acted quickly in just such a circumstance to designate Haiti for TPS after a massive earthquake and in record time, stood up a procedure to process applications for nationals of that devastated nation. That response can and should be repeated for the Philippines.

While we do not yet know the full impact of Typhoon Haiyan on the Philippines, the facts that are emerging are chilling. The death toll is believed to be in the thousands, and it is estimated that nearly 7 million people have been affected. Reports are that every structure in Tacloban has been destroyed or seriously damaged. Tens of thousands are homeless, and food and water is scarce in the affected regions. Roads and transportation infrastructure are gone, not only delaying relief but presenting a massive rebuilding challenge to a nation already struggling financially. There is simply no way that the Philippines could absorb the return of its nationals under these conditions.

We therefore ask that the Philippines be designated for TPS with all due haste.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Douglas Stump', with a stylized flourish at the end.

T. Douglas Stump, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crystal Williams', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Crystal Williams, Executive Director



YISROEL SCHULMAN, ESQ.
President & Attorney-in-Charge

November 15, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

In response to the desperate plight of millions of people affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, we request that you take immediate action on behalf of Filipino nationals currently living in the US, including tens of thousands in the New York metropolitan area alone. These individuals cannot and should not return home in the midst of this disaster. To do so would put them and their families at great risk, and would only add to the overwhelming burden of the massive emergency relief effort underway.

Our nation has a long history of providing temporary refuge to those affected by natural disasters, including nationals from Japan, Haiti, and El Salvador. For example, after the devastating Haitian earthquake in 2010, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) took swift action in designating temporary protected status (TPS) for Haitians, permitting them to work legally in the United States and care for their families while they are displaced from their home country.

In keeping with these precedents, we urge you to use the power of your office to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) takes immediate action as follows:

1. All Filipino nationals living in the US should be granted temporary protected status (TPS) following the precedents set in response to other similarly catastrophic disasters.
2. Filipino nationals should be granted automatic extension of nonimmigrant visas to give them time to apply for even longer extensions. Under these emergency conditions DHS should allow fee waivers for all such applications.
3. Humanitarian parole should be granted generally to all Filipinos who are waiting for immigrant visas, allowing these individuals to unite with their families in the United States immediately.
4. DHS should exercise prosecutorial discretion to all Filipinos currently in removal proceedings.

Our hearts go out to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. It is hard not to dwell on the devastation and the tragic loss of life in the Philippines. But with your support we can make a difference in the lives of thousands of Filipino nationals who are living and contributing to the quality of life in the US, or who aspire to do so.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
Make the Road New York
Asian American Bar Association of New York
(AABANY)

The New York Immigration Coalition
New York City Council Member Mathieu Eugene
Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of
New Jersey (APALA – NJ)
Damayan Migrant Workers Association

Edith and Carl Marks Jewish Communal House
of Bensonhurst

Filipino American Lawyers' Association of New
York (FALANY)

Filipino American Legal Defense Fund
(FALDEF)

Kings Bay YM-YWHA

Mercy Center

National Federation of Filipino American
Associations in America (NaFFAA)

Queens Jewish Community Council

Rio M. Guerrero, Esq.
Partner, Guerrero Yee LLP

Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York
(ROC-NY)

Shorefront Jewish Community Council

Shorefront YM-YWHA

United Jewish Organization of Williamsburg



Committee on Migration

c/o Migration and Refugee Services, USCCB

3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington DC 20017-1194

202-541-3227 • fax 202-722-8805 • email mrs@usccb.org • www.usccb.org/mrs

November 18, 2013

Honorable Rand Beers
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Beers:

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of the United States, I write to ask you to designate the country of the Philippines for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has a long history of serving the Philippine community in the United States and serves residents of the Philippines through Catholic Relief Service (CRS).

As you know, a grant of TPS permits nationals of the designated country to reside legally in the United States with work authorization. A designation of TPS is based, in part, upon a determination that an earthquake, flood, drought, epidemic, or other environmental disaster creates a substantial, temporary disruption such that the return of that country's nationals would further destabilize the nation or bring harm to the returning nationals.

Given the widespread loss of life and property caused by Typhoon Haiyan on November 7, 2013, in our view the Philippines warrants an immediate grant of TPS. It is the latest of three major environmental disasters in thirteen months in the Philippines. Previous disasters were a 7.2 earth quake on October 15, 2013, and Typhoon Bopha in December 2012.

The devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan more than justifies the designation of TPS for the Philippines. Specifically, initial reports include the following:

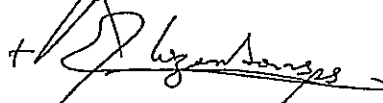
- Typhoon Haiyan had winds of up to 195 miles per hour, equivalent to a level 5 hurricane;
- 4, 460 deaths confirmed, with more anticipated;
- 11.8 million in 9 regions of the country have been impacted, with 3.6 million in the direct line of the storm; and
- 500,000 homes uninhabitable.

In addition, reports indicate a shortage of food and water in the impacted area and wide destruction of infrastructure.

Although DHS can take other limited actions to assist this population, they are insufficient compared to the magnitude of this disaster. Furthermore, the designation of TPS would ensure that nationals of the country currently residing in the United States are able to work and to send remittances back to their families, thus helping aid the recovery. It also would protect them from deportation to a nation that, for the time being, is unable to assist them in their reintegration.

In light of the devastation and substantial disruption of living conditions caused by this natural disaster, I respectfully request that you designate the Philippines for TPS as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eusebio Elizondo", written over a horizontal line.

Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Migration

Cc: Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State
Denis McDonough, Chief of Staff, The White House

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

1612 K Street NW, Suite 1400
Washington, DC 20006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2013

Contact: Emily Chatterjee
(202) 775-9555

NAPABA DONATES \$10,000 TO TYPHOON HAIYAN RELIEF EFFORTS
Supports Immigration Relief for Filipinos Based in the United States

WASHINGTON — The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) today announced that it has committed \$10,000 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in support of the IRC's emergency relief efforts in the Philippines. NAPABA also announced its support for temporary immigration-related relief for individuals from the Philippines who are currently in the U.S.

"NAPABA is committed to supporting the victims of the Typhoon Haiyan catastrophe. We will be donating \$10,000 to support the IRC, which is currently focused on clean water, health care, and other urgent needs in the Philippines," said William J. Simonitsch, president of NAPABA. "Almost a million people have been displaced internally, and the rebuilding efforts will be ongoing for years to come. We encourage all those who are able to do so to make a charitable donation to the IRC or to other groups working on the ground."

In addition to the list of aid agencies recommended in NAPABA's statement in support of victims of Typhoon Haiyan on Monday, which may be found [here](#), potential donors may want to consider Save the Children and the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON).

Tina Matsuoka, executive director of NAPABA, stated, "We recognize that, in addition to financial support, victims and their families need other assistance, which is why NAPABA has endorsed Temporary Protected Status for the Philippines. With TPS, Filipinos in the U.S. can be protected from deportation and are eligible to work, enabling them to continue to send remittances back home, thereby helping their families rebuild their lives."

Under §244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) would allow nationals from the Philippines residing in the U.S. to receive a temporary, humanitarian form of relief from deportation, and make them eligible to obtain work authorization. The Department of Homeland Security designated Haiti for TPS in similar circumstances after a massive earthquake in 2010. Today, NAPABA joined the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and others in a letter to Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Beers, and formally requested that the Philippines be designated for TPS will all due haste.

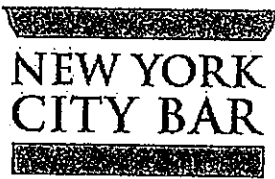
About the International Rescue Committee:

The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. Founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein, the IRC offers lifesaving care and life-changing assistance to refugees forced to flee from war or disaster. When an emergency arises, the IRC arrives on the scene within 72 hours with urgently needed supplies and expertise that protect people caught in the midst of chaos. We commit to stay as long as we are needed, helping survivors to heal, recover and rebuild their communities to be stronger, more stable and more democratic.

###

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is the national association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students. NAPABA represents the interests of over 40,000 attorneys and 67 national, state, and local Asian Pacific American bar associations. Its members

include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal service and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government. NAPABA continues to be a leader in addressing civil rights issues confronting Asian Pacific American communities. Through its national network of committees and affiliates, NAPABA provides a strong voice for increased diversity of the federal and state judiciaries, advocates for equal opportunity in the workplace, works to eliminate hate crimes and anti-immigrant sentiment, and promotes the professional development of people of color in the legal profession.



CAREY DUNNE
PRESIDENT
PHONE: (212) 382-6700
FAX: (212) 768-8116
carey.dunne@davispolk.com
www.nycbar.org

November 20, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

The Association of the Bar of the City of New York and its Immigration and Nationality Law Committee call upon your Administration to designate the Philippines for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. On November 8th, Typhoon Haiyan, the most powerful tropical storm ever recorded, struck the Philippines, producing an unprecedented humanitarian calamity in a country that just weeks earlier, had been hit by a magnitude 7.1 earthquake. With record winds and tsunami-like waves, the typhoon swept away entire coastal communities and has devastated the region's main city.

More than 10 million people have been affected by the storm. With thousands reported dead and injured, the grim toll of the typhoon's devastation will certainly rise as search and rescue efforts continue and more remote areas currently cut off from communication are reached. Currently, an estimated four million people have been displaced across the country in the storm's aftermath. Even more distressing are the debilitating and potentially fatal diseases now threatening due to the breakdown in sanitation, lack of access to fresh drinking water, and delayed emergency medical response. Medical aid groups have expressed serious alarm over the risk of tetanus infections to injured survivors, and illnesses such as cholera, malaria, typhoid fever, dysentery and even polio could form what doctors fear is the disaster's second wave.

It is clear that the Philippines qualifies under the criteria contained in the statute, e.g., the occurrence of a natural calamity which makes it unsafe for citizens to return. In the immediate past, the Department of Homeland Security has acted quickly to confer Temporary Protected Status in situations where such catastrophes have occurred. Haiti is only the most recent instance of such a designation. El Salvador and Honduras also serve as older examples.

A number of public policy objectives would be addressed if Filipino nationals now in the United States could benefit from Temporary Protected Status. The continued safety of this

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
42 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036-6689

group, from a humanitarian perspective, is compelling. But an equally significant consideration behind designating the Philippines is the continued need to fund relief efforts on behalf of the individuals who are trapped there. The United States has been at the forefront of this relief effort, committing an initial \$20 million in humanitarian assistance. Other states and NGO's have joined suit. But aid is needed now not merely for the clean-up; it is also vitally needed to stave off, and treat if contracted, the medical complications flowing from waterborne diseases.

A self-evident source of such funding would flow from remittances by Filipino nationals here in the United States as of the date of the typhoon who could be granted employment authorization pursuant to their TPS status. Currently, remittances from overseas Filipinos equal nearly 10 percent of the Philippines' Gross Domestic Product. TPS therefore is not in this instance merely a device for protecting a group of nationals who are physically present in the United States from exposure to the adverse humanitarian effects of being returned to a devastated homeland. It is also a way to put humanitarian principles to work by empowering Filipino nationals temporarily living in the United States to aid in the recovery of their own homeland and to alleviate the tragic consequences befalling the Philippines.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,



Carey R. Dunne

cc: Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.
Embassy of the Philippines to the United States
1600 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20036

Hon. Rand Beers
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

November 26, 2013

Hon. Rand Beers
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Beers:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to convey our deepest concern for the Philippines over the devastation brought by Typhoon Haiyan last week. Haiyan was one of the most powerful storms ever recorded on land, bringing sustained winds of 147mph and waves as high as 45ft. Our hearts go out to the nearly 7 million people affected by the typhoon as relief efforts are just beginning to get underway.

While the U.S. is directing much-needed food and relief aid to the Philippines, another way we can help limit the strain on that country's resources is by designating the Philippines for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under §244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Just less than four years ago, DHS and USCIS acted quickly in a very similar circumstance to designate Haiti for TPS after a massive earthquake and, in record time, stood up a procedure to process applications for nationals of that devastated nation. That response can and should be repeated for the Philippines.

While we do not yet know the full impact of Typhoon Haiyan on the Philippines, the facts that are emerging are chilling. Initial reports indicate that the death toll is believed to be in the thousands, and the number of people displaced by the massive storm rises into the hundreds of thousands. Reports are that every structure in Tacloban has been destroyed or seriously damaged. Tens of thousands are homeless, and food and water is scarce in the affected regions. Roads and transportation infrastructure are gone, not only delaying relief but presenting a massive rebuilding challenge to a nation already struggling financially. There is simply no way that the Philippines could absorb the return of its nationals under these conditions.

We therefore ask that the Philippines be designated for TPS with all due haste.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org
AFL-CIO
Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment
American Coalition of Filipino Veterans
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

Americans for Immigrant Justice
American Immigration Council
American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Jewish Committee
Apna Ghar, Inc. (Our Home)
Arab American Institute
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles
Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago
Asian American Federation of Florida
Asian American Heritage Council, Inc.
Asian American Legal Advocacy Center
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Asian Chamber of Commerce of Arizona
Asian Law Alliance
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement
Asian Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health
Asian Pacific American Law Student Association
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
Asian Services In Action
Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education
ASISTA Immigration Assistance
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Fil-Am Teachers of America
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
Cambodian Association of Illinois
Campaign for Community Change
Casa de Esperanza: National Latina Network for Healthy Families and Communities
Central Philippine University Alumni Association Michigan -Windsor Chapter
Chinese Mutual Aid Association
Chinese Progressive Association
Church World Service
Coalition of Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Community Services & Resources
Council for Filipino American Organizations of Central Florida
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs
El Centro de la Raza

Empowered Ideas
End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
Fair Immigration Reform Movement
Filipino American Association of Brevard County, Florida Inc.
Filipino American Association of Fair Lawn, Inc.
Filipino American Association of Philadelphia, Inc.
Filipino American Community Action Group
Filipino-American Community Empowerment - San Diego
Filipino American Ladies Organization of Dayton
Filipino American Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc.
Filipino American Network
Filipino American Women's Network, MN
Filipino Community Center
Florida Chinese Federation
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Florida's Space Coast Filipino American Charitable and Educational Foundation Inc.
Franciscan Action Network
Gay Asian Pacific Alliance
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
HIAS
Hispanic Federation
Hmong-American Partnership, Fox Valley Inc.
Hmong National Development, Inc.
Hmong Nationality Organization
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Indo-American Center
Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community
Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights - CLUE-CA
Japanese American Citizens League, Arizona Chapter
Judah Missionary Baptist Church
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
KAYA: Filipino Americans for Progress - DC Chapter
KAYA: Filipino Americans for Progress National
Korean American Community Services
Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center
Korean Resource Center
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Mending Faces
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
NANAY Community Economic Development Corporation
National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity
National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, Arizona Chapter
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Federation of Filipino American Associations
National Federation of Filipino American Association, Illinois
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 5
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Forum
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women
New York Immigration Coalition
North American South Asian Bar Association
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
OCA South Florida Chapter
OneAmerica (Washington State)
Philippine-American Society of Greater Dayton
Philippine Chinese Association of America
Philippine Medical Society of Greater Philadelphia
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
South Asian American Policy & Research Institute
South Asian Americans Leading Together
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Tacoma Community House
Thai Community Development Center
The Council For Filipino American Organizations, Central Florida
The Episcopal Church
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
United We Dream
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
UNITED SIKHS
Uplift Internationale
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
Youth Success Global Foundation Inc.
West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Associations, Inc.
World Relief

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1515
 in favor in opposition # T2013-7272
Date: 12-17-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PRARTHANA GURUNG
Address: 71-07 WOODSIDE AVE, WOODSIDE, NY
I represent: ADHIKAAR
Address: 71-07 WOODSIDE AVE, WOODSIDE, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1515
 in favor in opposition
Date: 12/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jennie Encalada
Address: 37-41 77th St. Jackson Heights NY
I represent: New Immigrant Community Empowerment
Address: (NICE)

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 2057-
 in favor in opposition 2013
Date: 12/17/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rio Guerrero / rio@guerrerojoo.com
Address: 233 Broadway, Suite 2040, NY NY 10279
I represent: American Immigration Lawyers Association
Address: New York Chapter

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

1515

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 12/17/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: IRINA NOTIVCHENKO

Address: 27 HARVARD SQ. 18 FL.

I represent: NY UX 10004

Address: New York Legal Assistants Group

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1515

in favor in opposition

Date: 12-17-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Matthew Blaisdell

Address: 505 54th St, 2nd Fl, Brooklyn NY 11220

I represent: American Immigration Lawyers Association

Address:

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1515-2012

in favor in opposition

Date: 12/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: TSUI YEE

Address: GUERRERO YEE LLP, 233 BROADWAY, STE 2040

I represent: ALBANY NY, NY 10279

Address: (Asian American Bar Association of NY)

PO BOX 3656, NY, NY 10163

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. ⁵²¹⁸~~4384~~

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joseph Rosenberg / Mario Russell

Address: 1011 1st Ave

I represent: NYC Catholic Charities - Immigration

Address: Service

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 12.17.13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christina Filo

Address: Taskforce bayan + National Alliance for

I represent: Filipino Concerns

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: AUDREY CARR

Address: 40 WORTH ST #606 NY NY 10013

I represent: LEGAL SERVICES NYC

Address: SAME AS ABOVE

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms