



AB1368 (Calderon): Enhanced Services & Programs for Asylees



CAIR-CA Position: SUPPORT

Summary

Assembly Bill 1368 would establish the Enhanced Services Program for Asylees (ESPA) within the State Department of Social Services (CDSS). The ESPA will offer case management services for individuals granted asylum, ensuring they receive culturally competent and responsive case management for up to 90 days.

Background & Problem

Currently, refugees, when arriving in the state, receive about 90 days of case management services to assist them in signing up for eligible benefits, identify spaces for community integration, and embark on a path towards self-sufficiency.

Refugees and asylees meet the same legal threshold for admittance into the United States, with refugees being identified in the country of origin and asylees upon arrival to border. However, while they experience many of the same hardships, asylees do not receive the same 90-day case management services that refugees receive.

This means that asylees will be less likely to receive the benefits they are already eligible for, decreasing the overall rate of self-sufficiency and early assistance that an asylee gets, because they do not have the help of a case manager in those first 90 days of resettlement.

The lack of asylees receiving those benefits due to an absence of early case management also means California is receiving less federal funding than they are eligible for.

Solution

AB 1368 would establish the Enhanced Services and Programs for Asylees (ESPA) within CDSS to offer the same type of case management refugees receive to asylees.

With the passage of AB 1368 and the \$8 million associated budget ask, asylees will receive case management from existing refugee resettlement agencies across the state.

This will ensure California leads the way in asylee services and bring parity to the support of refugees and asylees in the State over the course of the next two years.

Support

Access California Services
ACLU of California
Bend the Arc
CHIRLA
CAIR-CA
Jewish Family Services
Opening Doors
Pars Equality Center, Los Angeles
PICO California
Refugee Forum of Los Angeles
We Are All America

Opposition

None on File