

Matt Felix

**From:** marjie brecht [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 1:29 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Recent changes - please consider!!

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Marjie Brecht and I am a resident of Pima County. I am contacting you today with regard to the impacts of the Reconciliation Package (HR 1) on our newest refugee neighbors. At a time when we should be focused on how to best integrate the newest members of our community, we are instead focused on how to ensure their survival given dramatic changes to critical lifeline services.

Refugees in Arizona are resilient- rebuilding their lives and strengthening our communities as they start small businesses, address food scarcity by starting community gardens, and help to meet critical workforce needs in healthcare and other sectors. The limited and temporary services that they receive upon arrival are a lifeline to stabilization and a safe and humane integration process.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability and prosperity for our entire community. I urge you to support:

- **Emergency funding for community food banks** to address immediate needs
- **Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services:** Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DoJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.
- **Pima County to work with AZDES** on English language, workforce and volunteer programs **and AZDOT** on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes as outlined in the Addendum Agenda

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Sincerely,

Marjie Brecht

Avra Valley, AZ

[REDACTED]

**Matt Felix**

**From:** John Stieve [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 2:31 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** Emergency Refugee Support

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Pima County Board of Supervisors  
 33 N Stone Ave 11 Floor  
 Tucson, AZ 85701-1207

October 30, 2025

Dear members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is John Stieve, and I reside in Pima County. I am writing to you today to ask you to support emergency funding for our refugee neighbors in need in Pima County. Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the HR1 SNAP cuts, which removed refugees from eligibility for SNAP- creating a total loss of food assistance for newly arrived refugees. I have supported and helped refugees in their resettlement, and this assistance is often temporary.

I write to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability for our entire community. I urge you to support:

- Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs
- Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services:

Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DoJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.

- Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes.

I care about this issue because I have worked with and supported Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest for over twenty years and know they have made a significant difference in the resettlement and future lives of refugees in our country. These people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state.

Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable, long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community. I believe this is the good, Godly, patriotic, and most positive thing to do. Thank you for your support

Sincerely,  
John Stieve  
68 W. Aliso Drive  
Green Valley, AZ 85614

**Matt Felix**

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**From:** clare cox [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 2:02 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** HR1 SNAP cuts

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Clare Cox and I am a resident of Pima County. I am contacting you today with regard to the impacts of the Reconciliation Package (HR 1) on our newest refugee neighbors. On Nov 1, refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the HR1 SNAP cuts – creating a total loss of food assistance for refugees without green cards. At a time when we should be focused on how to best integrate the newest members of our community, we are instead focused on how to ensure their survival given dramatic changes to critical lifeline services.

Refugees in Arizona are resilient- rebuilding their lives and strengthening our communities as they start small businesses, address food scarcity by starting community gardens, and help to meet critical workforce needs in healthcare and other sectors. The limited and temporary services that they receive upon arrival are a lifeline to stabilization and a safe and humane integration process.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability and prosperity for our entire community. I urge you to support:

- Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs
- Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services: -Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DOJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.
- Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes as outlined in the Addendum Agenda.

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and our state thrives when we invest in its residents. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Sincerely,

Clare Cox  
2676 W. Highcliff Dr., 85745  
[REDACTED]

**Matt Felix**

**From:** Amelia Natoli - Media Development <media\_development@iskashitaa.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 3:53 PM  
**To:** COB\_mail  
**Subject:** letter of support Refugee SNAP benefits

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Dear Administrator Leshar and County Supervisors,

The US Refugee Resettlement program should be a point of pride for all Americans, and reflects our core value of being a safe haven for the oppressed. It has been a quietly effective solution for the millions of individuals who have been resettled here since 1975. Unlike other refugee-receiving countries, the US will accept refugees with no potential for economic self-sufficiency, and it takes the support of many agencies and community members to support them on their journey to becoming US citizens.

Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN) employs a unique model of integration in our programs, where the newest Americans work with long-term Americans together on harvests to feed their community. Refugees have expressed how important it is to be able to give back to their new country, even as they are struggling to achieve the rapid economic self-sufficiency that is expected of them within 3 months of arrival.

Iskashitaa accompanies refugees on their integration process, through joyful, welcoming programs that bring them together with local Tucsonans to build community. We work with many refugees who are struggling with integration and language barriers after years in the US, often because of age or disability. Our programs focus on social integration, but through the phenomenal networking skills of our founder, we introduce many refugees to employment opportunities that become long-term jobs providing dignity and stability.

In the period of time that refugees are challenged with a completely new life in the US, they rely on benefits like SNAP. Removal of food assistance from refugees who have been intentionally brought to the US to start a new life is cruel and irresponsible. Thank you for considering the challenges that this unique population faces, and for recognizing their resilience.

We respectfully ask that; #1 You do find the resources to be able help in this critical situation, and #2 You include Iskashitaa Refugee Network as a valued partner in providing food and effective distribution opportunities for those who are in need.

Thank you,  
Amelia Natoli  
Development Director  
Iskashitaa Refugee Network

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**Amelia Natoli, MPH**  
pronouns: she/her/hers  
Grants and Development  
Iskashitaa Refugee Network  
520-440-0100  
3736 E. 2nd St.  
Tucson, AZ 85716

*Harvesting Hope, Empowering Change*  
[www.iskashitaa.org](http://www.iskashitaa.org)

Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN) is a local nonprofit whose mission is to assist refugees on their journeys to fulfilled lives in Tucson, using innovative local food-based programming as an entry point to building community.