

Matt Felix

From: Sara Haghighi [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 4:09 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Fwd: Support for Refugees Impacted by HR1 SNAP Cuts

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Sara Haghighi 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 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,

Sara Haghighi

Zip Code: 85718

Matt Felix

From: Freei Simons [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 4:28 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Response to Reconciliation Package HR-1

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,
My name is Jeffrey Simons and I am a resident of Pima County. I spoke to the board on October 21, 2025 regarding the imminent cut to the SNAP program that has extreme effects on the people in the community that I and my organization, Tucson Refugee Ministry, works with. I am contacting you today about being pro-active on the effects of 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.

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Sincerely,

Jeffrey Simons

15375 N. Bowman rd

Tucson, AZ 85739

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 11-4-25 ITEM NO. R1A11512

Aliza Barraza

From: Rhonda Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 4:57 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Regarding refugee support

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Rhonda Martin 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. RM

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:

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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,

Rhonda Martin

2775 West Grandbrook Street Tucson, Arizona 85741

Sent from my iPhone

Aliza Barraza

From: Anne B Stericker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 8:48 PM
To: COB_mail
Cc: Nancy Stevenson; Anne Stericker
Subject: Please Protect Refugee Access to Food Assistance

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OCT 31 2PM 0829 PCK OF 30



Dear Chair & Members of the Board,

I write to ask you to help lessen the harmful effects that H.R.1 and reductions to SNAP will have on access to food assistance for all Pima County residents, including our refugee families and other vulnerable residents.

Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN) is an unusually effective local organization that's been harvesting and gleaning food and redistributing it to needy groups throughout Tucson for over 20 years. Every year Iskashitaa members glean between 60,000 to 150,000 pounds of backyard fruits and vegetables. More than half of that is given to local food banks, shelters and tribal groups, and the rest goes to needy Iskashitaa refugees.

SNAP food assistance is critical to the survival of new refugees when they first arrive in Tucson and are struggling to learn English, find jobs, feed their families and so on. Iskashitaa helps them tremendously in their first years here and so does SNAP.

Please advocate with DES and state leaders to protect access to food assistance for those who need it, including our valued refugee neighbors.

Respectfully,
Anne B. Stericker
Donor and Ally to Iskashitaa Refugee Network

Aliza Barraza

From: Stephen Farley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 8:32 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Quick read: Food assistance for refugees

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Dear Chair, Board Members, and Administrator,

Thank you again for your selfless service in these difficult times for our country. I know you have a lot to read so I'll keep this brief.

The elimination of SNAP benefits will negatively affect so many in our community at a foundational level - people's very survival is at stake. I understand that you do not have unlimited funds, and there are so many needs.

I want to suggest that a priority for food assistance should be Pima County's refugee population. These are families who have gone to hell and back in their own countries, but, thanks to the generous spirit of the people of the United States, are starting a new life here on their way toward being important contributors to our advancement as a society.

We all benefit when we help refugees reclaim their agency by learning American culture and creating a foundation for their future economic success. To put their well-being at risk with the withdrawal of food benefits, particularly at this time of increasing xenophobia emanating from powerful places, would hurt not only them, but also our future.

As a board member of Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN), in which food harvesting and preparation is central, I have seen the power that comes from following the lead of refugees as they tell us what they need. Using County support to build on the existing IRN food distribution program would be an excellent way to support refugees in this time of need.

Thanks again for your service and your deep care for the most vulnerable among us,
Stephen

Stephen Farley
Stephen Farley Design
Public Art • Public History • Public Service

Aliza Barraza

From: Amrita Khalsa [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 8:49 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support protecting refugee access to food assistance

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Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I am a volunteer and ally of Iskashitaa Refugee Network and am writing in strong support of Pima County's efforts to protect refugee families and other vulnerable residents from the harmful effects of H.R. 1 and related reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

For 22 years, **Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN)** has worked to strengthen Tucson's food system through hands-on education, community partnerships, and sustainable local food providing initiatives that reduce food loss, food waste, and hunger. Learning from over 57 ethnic groups, Iskashitaa's approach to food security and community integration is both unique and effective. Refugees and resident asylum seekers are not only receiving food – they are actively **harvesting, gleaning, and redistributing** it to others in need through IRN.

Each year, refugees with Iskashitaa glean between **60,000 and 150,000 pounds of backyard fruits and vegetables**, and more than **half is donated** to local food banks, shelters, and tribal partners – reaching far beyond the refugee community. This work embodies the spirit of self-reliance, contribution, and community-building that Pima County stands for.

We recognize that SNAP is meant to be supplemental. However, without this crucial support in their first years of resettlement, refugees struggle to meet their families' basic needs while learning English, developing marketable skills, and finding employment. The loss or reduction of SNAP benefits at this stage could severely hinder their ability to become self-sufficient and integrated members of our community. Barriers to becoming legal permanent residents (green card holders), increased eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits all increase the possibility of evictions of Pima county residents.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to take all possible actions to advocate with DES and state leadership to mitigate the impact of H.R. 1 and protect access to essential food assistance for all Pima County residents – including our newest neighbors.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a compassionate, food-secure Southern Arizona.

Sincerely,

Amrita Khalsa

Iskashitaa Refugee Network ally, supporter, volunteer

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 11/4/25 ITEM NO. RA 11412

Aliza Barraza

From: Meheria Habibi [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 9:21 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support for Refugees Impacted by H.R.1 SNAP cuts

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Meheria Habibi and I am a resident of Pima County. I am contacting you today with regard to the impacts of the Reconciliation Package (H.R.1) on our newest refugee neighbors. On Nov 1st refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the H.R.1 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 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,

Meheria Habibi
Zip Code: 85748

Aliza Barraza

From: Mimi Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 10:50 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: support for protecting refugee access to food assistance

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Dear Chair and members of the board,

I am writing in strong support of Pima Country's effort to protect refugee families and other vulnerable residents from the harmful effects of H.R.1 and related reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program(SNAP).

Iskashitaa Refugee Network(INR) has worked for years to strengthen Tucsons food system through hands-on education,community partnerships that reduce food loss,waste and hunger.

Each year 1/2 of the fruits and vegetables are donated to the food bank,shelters and tribal partners.

Without the crucial support in their first years of resettlement ,refugees struggle to meet their families basic needs.

Please take all possible actions to advocate with DES and state leadership to protect access to essential food assistance for all Pima County residents .

Thank you, Mary Conway

@

Aliza Barraza

From: Elaina Richards [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 12:02 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: HR1 SNAP Cuts: Refugee Food Support

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Elaina Richards 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.

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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,

Elaina Richards

Zip Code: 85719

Aliza Barraza

From: Dana Narter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 12:21 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support for Protecting Refugee Access to Food Assistance

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Handwritten signature/initials.

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I am writing in strong support of Pima County's efforts to protect refugee families and other vulnerable members of our community from the harmful effects of H.R. 1 and related reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

I have been volunteering in Tucson working with refugees for the last several years, first at Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) doing refugee resettlement and more recently at Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN) helping to integrate refugees into our community through food-based programming. Working together with refugees at IRN for the last ten months, we have been gardening, harvesting fruit from the local community that might otherwise go to waste, and preserving foods for later use in food workshops. The word Iskashitaa comes from a Somali language and means "working collaboratively together" which is exactly what we're doing at IRN to help increase food security and decrease food waste.

While I am relatively new to Iskashitaa, for 22 years IRN has worked to strengthen Tucson's food system through hands-on education, community partnerships, and sustainable local food providing initiatives that reduce food loss, food waste, and hunger. Learning from over 57 ethnic groups, Iskashitaa's approach to food security and community integration is both

unique and effective. Refugees and resident asylum seekers are not only receiving food — they are actively **harvesting, gleaning, and redistributing** it to others in need through IRN.

Each year, refugees with Iskashitaa glean between **60,000 and 150,000 pounds of backyard fruits and vegetables**, and more than **half is donated** to local food banks, shelters, and tribal partners — reaching far beyond the refugee community. This work embodies the spirit of self-reliance, contribution, and community-building that Pima County stands for.

I recognize that SNAP is meant to be supplemental. However, without this crucial support in their first years of resettlement, refugees struggle to meet their families' basic needs while learning English, developing marketable skills, and finding employment. The loss or reduction of SNAP benefits at this stage could severely hinder their ability to become self-sufficient and integrated members of our community. Barriers to becoming legal permanent residents (green card holders) , increased eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits all increase the possibility of evictions of Pima county residents.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to take all possible actions to advocate with DES and state leadership to mitigate the impact of H.R. 1 and protect access to essential food assistance for all Pima County residents — including our newest neighbors.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a compassionate, food-secure Southern Arizona.

Sincerely,
Dana Narter
Iskashitaa Volunteer

Aliza Barraza

From: Chuck Irvin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 11:19 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Reconciliation Package (HR 1) negative abhorrent impact...

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Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Charles Irvin 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.

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+ 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

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Sincerely,

Charles W Irvin

Zip Code: 85712-2561