



REFUGEE
ADVOCACY LAB

HB102: HIGHER EDUCATION RESIDENCY AMENDMENTS

BACKGROUND

The economic contributions of New Americans to Utah's economy are significant, but the potential full economic benefit of newcomers is often hampered by barriers to higher education—the largest of which is cost. When resettled individuals arrive in Utah, they do not immediately qualify for in-state tuition rates, despite having never lived in another state. Without access to in-state tuition, newcomers are often unable to realize their full academic, personal, and professional potential. While some may still pursue higher education after establishing residency, most will have to abandon their plans and continue working in positions that are below their skill levels. When this happens, Utah loses out on the full economic potential these individuals bring to the workforce.

8.4%

Newcomers comprise 8.4% of Utah's population



Utah's immigrant households have a spending power of \$5.4 billion



1 in 3 immigrants in Utah's workforce are employed in jobs below their skill level



Utah's New American population contributes over \$570 million in state and local taxes

Source: American Immigration Council "Immigrants in Utah" Report & World Education Service's Brain Waste Data Tool

WHAT WILL HB102 DO?

Representative Jordan Teuscher's bill, H.B. 102 "Higher Education Residency Amendments," extends residency-based in-state tuition rates to refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa recipients (SIVs), humanitarian parolees, individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and individuals who can prove they have made an effort in good faith to apply for these statuses. There is no expected fiscal impact from this bill and the projected economic benefits of this legislation are substantial—for institutions of higher education, the state of Utah, and individuals' earning potential.

HOW WILL HB102 HELP UTAH?

This bill harnesses the full economic power of Utah's newcomers by removing financial barriers to higher education. Allowing refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, SIVs, and TPS recipients to reach their full academic, professional, and economic potential will promote the successes of Utah's newcomer communities and expand their contributions to Utah's workforce, economy and shared prosperity.

▶ WHO DOES HB102 BENEFIT?

Refugees: Individuals who are forced to leave their country who cannot return due to a legitimate fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group membership.

Asylees: Individuals who meet the definition of a refugee and are present in the U.S. or seeking admission at a port of entry.

Special Immigrant Visa recipients: Individuals who worked for the U.S. Armed Forces or under Chief of Mission authority in Iraq or Afghanistan who have been granted special immigrant status under congressional authorization.

Humanitarian Parolees: Individuals "paroled" into the U.S. for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.

Temporary Protected Status recipients: Individuals from specifically designated countries that are confronting extraordinary and temporary conditions.