

Good afternoon. My name is Bich-Hanh Nguyen. I graduated from Highland high school. I lived on Indiana Street, and Georgia Street at different times. I attend special occasions at two Vietnamese Buddhist temples. I am a regular volunteer at a Thai Buddhist temple. I do now and then visit another Thai Buddhist temple and a Laos Buddhist temple in the International District. I am one of the founding members of the Asian American Association of New Mexico. We are a 501(c)3 organization. We have monthly meetings at Cesar Chavez Community Center. We hope someday to have an Asian American Cultural and Performing Arts Center in the International District. The Asian Family Center is just a tad to the northwest of International District on San Mateo and Marquette.

In 1975 and 1976 I worked for the Indo China Refugee Resettlement Program to resettle Vietnamese people after The Fall of Vietnam. In 1978 and 1979 I worked for the Tolstoy Foundation to resettle Vietnamese people after The Fall of Vietnam. These persons are what American knows as the "Boat People" . These two refugees resettlement programs placed many Vietnamese families in the Senate District 17 area. Both of these programs parallel the effort of Catholic Charities in placing Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian. I also served on the Board of Directors for Catholic Charities for 16 years. I was there when the Archbishop of Santa Fe request this social service agency to handle the Cuban refugees, and to handle the amnesty program in New Mexico.

The Senate District is the most diverse community in the state. We are like New York city condense into the International District. The Vietnamese restaurants are one of the economic engine of this area. I hope someday we will have an Asian Chamber of Commerce housed right here in the area.

I am here to ask you ladies and gentlemen of the committee to give serious consideration to the redistricting of the Senate District and House Districts. Please protect our community of interest so that our voice not be drowned out by having to be split into different Senate Districts and House Districts. We are resettled from our home land and Albuquerque and New Mexico are good for us. I humbly ask that you grant us the wish to be in a single Senate District and at most two House Districts.