



Minnesota Senate

Senator Sandra L. Pappas

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Hmong Cultural Center
c/o Mr. Mark Pfeifer
995 University Ave W, Suite 214
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

Dear Friends,

I am writing today to extend my sincere congratulations to the Hmong Cultural Center (HCC) on your 20th Anniversary celebration. You have been an invaluable resource to our community over the past two decades and your service is greatly appreciated – a sentiment I know the estimated 2,000 Hmong refugees you have helped obtain citizenship would agree with!

In addition to helping the Hmong refugees in our community navigate the naturalization process through citizenship classes, you have also provided English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to diverse populations including Vietnamese, Laotians, Oromo, and Karen. These services are an integral part to helping our immigrant community feel like they belong in our great state of Minnesota.

Not only do you help Hmong refugees and other immigrants integrate into American society you also do a wonderful job of facilitating the adaptation of Hmong culture into our community. Your emphasis on teaching traditional Hmong folk art (training hundreds of children to play the Qeej instrument at funerals and teaching just as many adults how to orally recite the canon of funeral and marriage songs) has certainly contributed to the survival of important forms of Hmong ceremonial culture. In addition, your Hmong Resource Center Library, the largest collection of Hmong scholarly research in the U.S., has educated numerous people on Hmong culture and history.

I commend the Hmong Cultural Center on twenty years of serving our community with several important programs to assist Hmong refugees and promote education about Hmong culture and history and wish you many years of continued success.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra".

Sandra L. Pappas

State Senator, District 65

President, Minnesota Senate