

Giuseppe Scagliarini

Attorney at Law

37 Harrison Avenue
Newport, RI 02840
Tel: +(401) 849-1220
Fax: +(401) 633-7055

www.scagliarinilaw.com

E-Mail : gs@scagliarinilaw.com

8 Faneuil Hall, 3rd Fl.
Boston, MA 02109
Tel: +(617) 973-5050
Fax: +(617) 973-5097

June 24, 2009

Honorable Senator
Jack Reed
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3903

Dear Senator Reed:

Thank you for your correspondence keeping me updated of your efforts to reform our current immigration system. I am very grateful of your taking the time to inform me of the current legislative sentiment on this complicated issue. I am also grateful of your efforts towards better securing the borders, and, understand how delicate and politically explosive the immigration debate is.

I just wanted to add my, perhaps slanted, small insight in this matter by adding that yes, our current system is broken and yes, our border are porous, but let's not forget that there is a silent majority of both U.S. citizens and permanent residents who play by the rules and have never broken the law. Contrary to common understanding, these people are also hurt by our dysfunctional set of laws in regard to immigration.

They are the business owners who cannot hire international talent to sustain their enterprise; the software engineers and knowledge workers who are laid off because Microsoft has opted to open a research center in Vancouver, Canada rather than across the border in Redmond, WA because of our ridiculous immigration and visa backlogs; they are the small seafood distributor from Tiverton RI and their employees who see themselves squeezed out of an increasingly international market without being able to bring on board an expert of Far East fisheries to compete with the biggest, more established firms that can afford to set up shop overseas.

They are the lawful permanent residents who must wait six years to bring in his or her spouse because they married after permanent resident status was granted. They are the business owners that must wait anywhere from 9 to 36 months for the U.S. Department of Labor to certify that there are no U.S. workers available for a job for which they have already run an expensive recruitment campaign which clearly yielded no qualified applicants. They are the owner and employees of the Middletown, RI sail maker that struggle to stay afloat because the in-house employee groomed to manage the facility now faces a six year wait before receiving her papers (this story was actually on the Providence Journal and you may have read it). The H1-B petitioners who must pay thousands of dollars in filing fees and an additional thousand to receive prompt service and be bumped at the top of the line (this actually happens and it is

called "Premium Processing Service": I think instead that poor and rich should get equal treatment from United States Government's agencies)

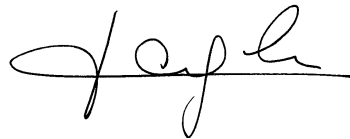
Fundamentally, we as a nation are torn between protecting our own workers and opening up to international talent. The pendulum has swung back and forth over the years, and for quite some time now the knee-jerk reaction, especially in a time of economic recession, is to "leave them out". However, I firmly believe that excess protectionism and fear of competition can only hurt ourselves, by forcing us in a downward spiral not unlike that of the recently failed Detroit's automakers.

I do believe that we are approaching a juncture where this sets of laws and regulations will need to be re-examined, and I am grateful for your and Senator Reid for pushing the issue on the agenda. If nothing else, we should do it to ensure our own survival and identity. Besides, it is not the American way not to confront a problem when we recognize it.

I just hope that once the debate starts, due consideration is given not only to the millions of undocumented, but also to the countless immigrants and temporary workers who are now playing by the rules and suffering the consequences.

Thank you for your taking the time and effort to tackle these difficult issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Giuseppe Scagliarini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Giuseppe Scagliarini, Esq.