



BOARD BILL 3.168

An Act to Waive Student Fees for Immigration Cases in Student
Legal Services

A.S.U.W.

125th Session

Sponsored by Erick Jacobsen, *Speaker of the ASUW Senate.*

Co-sponsored by Khushi Loomba, *ASUW Director of Finance and Budget.*

Recommended by the ASUW Finance and Budget Committee.

1 **WHEREAS** Student Legal Services is a unit under the HUB which
2 delivers "high-quality, client-centered legal services" to
3 students subsidized by the Services and Activities Fee [1]; and

4 **WHEREAS** Student Legal Services, or SLS, offers free 40-minute
5 consultations with students and low hourly rates for ongoing
6 representation on matters including immigration, landlord/tenant
7 disputes, protection orders, estate planning, name and gender
8 marker changes, workplace/housing discrimination, divorce,
9 traffic tickets, and more [2]; and

10 **WHEREAS** 35% of SLS consultations and cases were primarily
11 immigration related in FY24 and FY25 [1]; and

12 **WHEREAS** the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump in
13 January 2025 preceded an aggressive expansion of harmful
14 practices targeting international and immigrant students,
15 including:

- 16 1. Mass deportations [3];
17 2. Suspension of asylum processing and the U.S. Refugee
18 Admissions Program [4];
19 3. Expansion of immigration enforcement in areas previously
20 protected [5]; and
21 4. Revocation of student visas [6]; and

22 **WHEREAS** UW students have been targeted by these efforts on
23 multiple occasions, including nine UW student visa revocations
24 [7] and one UW student detention and deportation [8]; and

25 **WHEREAS** these activities have increased the need for legal aid
26 and immigration support from SLS; and

27 **WHEREAS** it is the official stance of the UW students and the
28 ASUW as an organization that an increase in financial support
29 and legal services is necessary [9]; and

30 **WHEREAS** SLS fees, which are \$20/hour, may be waived "for
31 students with exceptional financial hardship who make a written
32 request and disclose required financial information" [10] and
33 for certain high priority cases like domestic abuse [11]; and

34 **WHEREAS** a blanket fee waiver for all immigration-related cases
35 would eliminate the disclosure and request process necessary to
36 attain a need-based waiver and increase the accessibility of
37 Student Legal Services for those students most in need of legal
38 representation and support; and

39 **WHEREAS** the ASUW has partnered with SLS before, most notably in
40 the ASUW Winter Quarter Know Your Rights event [12] and the SLS
41 Forum in the Student Senate [13]; and

42 **WHEREAS** SLS Interim Director Amanda Reynoso-Palley has indicated
43 that a sum of \$5,000.00 is sufficient to cover all immigration-
44 related case fees and administrative fees for a year [11]; and

45 **WHEREAS** the exact cost of such a blanket fee waiver for the
46 Immigration Program is impossible to know for sure, but
47 insufficient funds could lead to continued utilization of need-
48 based waivers and surplus funds could carry over into funding
49 the waiver in future years; and

50 **WHEREAS** \$5,000.00 allocated would waive the \$20/hour
51 representation fees and \$10 administrative fees for all cases
52 involving U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services starting
53 July 1st, 2026, the start of the fiscal year [11]; and

54 **WHEREAS** hiring agreements for SLS representation under this fee
55 waiver would make it clear that representation is free of charge
56 thanks to the donation of the ASUW [11]; and

57 **WHEREAS** funding SLS Immigration Program fee waivers for a year
58 opens the door to future funding and partnership opportunities
59 between ASUW and SLS, such as continuing fee waivers or working

60 to include fee waivers as part of the SAF budget packet,
61 adaptable to the needs of future leaders;

62 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE**
63 **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

64 **THAT** the ASUW allocate \$5,000 to UW Student Legal Services under
65 the direction of the UW Husky Union Building in solidarity and
66 support for its Immigration Program; and

67 **THAT** a copy of this bill be forwarded to Amanda Reynoso-Palley.
68 SLS Interim Director, Khushi Loomba, ASUW Finance & Budget
69 Director; Anushka Julakanti, ASUW Operations Coordinator; Carrie
70 Moore, Executive Director of the Husky Union Building; Marshall
71 Traverse, Associate Director for Student Activities; and Trevor
72 Hunt, Associate Director for Finance and Business Operations.

References :

- [1] [Student Legal Services SAF Committee Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request](#) (2025) .
- [2] [SLS Website](#) (2026) .
- [3] [White House Executive Order "Securing Our Borders"](#) (2025) .
- [4] [White House Executive Order "Realigning the USRAP"](#) (2025) .
- [5] [Statement from a DHS Spokesperson on Directives Expanding Immigration Law Enforcement](#) (2025) .
- [6] [BBC: "US State Department revokes 6,000 student visas"](#) (2025) .
- [7] [The Daily: "Federal government revokes visas of nine international students, University says"](#) (2025) .
- [8] [The Daily: "UW graduate student questioned and detained at Sea-Tac, removed from United States"](#) (2025) .
- [9] [Board Bill 5.22 \(R-31-20\) A Resolution in Support of Undocumented Students Amidst Recent Federal Policy](#) (2025) .
- [10] [SLS Hiring Process](#) (2026) .

[11] **Conversation with SLS Interim Director & Staff Attorney Amanda Reynoso-Palley** (2026).

[12] [The Daily: ``We hold so much power:' ASUW Latine Student Commission hosts 'Know Your Rights' workshop"](#) (2026).

[13] [2025.11.25 ASUW Senate Floor Minutes](#) (2025).

End.