1.   If S. 744 were to become law, do you believe that the Department of Homeland Security would deport those who enter the country illegally or overstay their visas after the bill's enactment?

I do not have expertise in this area.

2.   If S. 744 were to become law, how many total new immigrants, including those currently here illegally who would be granted some form of legal status and those who would be admitted to the country under all categories of chain migration, would be added to the United States over a ten-year period following the date of enactment and over a fifteen-year period following the date of enactment?

I believe this is a critical number that should be calculated and estimated. Large numbers will have significant impacts on the American labor market. The extent of the labor market impact is difficult to determine without making reasonable estimates of the numbers of greencards that will be granted, to clear out backlogs, and also for future flows. In sum, it looks like this bill would vastly increase the number of greencards and temporary work permits, swelling the labor pool significantly.

The U.S. already has complex formulas to admit legal permanent residents. We currently grant approximately 1 million new greencards per year. The bill seeks to eliminate backlogs of those waiting for a greencard. This includes the approximately 11 million undocumented workers plus family-based and employment-based backlogs. I do not have good estimates of the latter two but I understand that combined they are in the neighborhood of 6 million. That would mean the bill would grant 17 million greencards just for clearing out backlogs – that would be equivalent to 17 years' worth of greencards. The labor market impact is mitigated somewhat because many of these 17 million are already here. However, the future flows of workers on greencards and temporary workers looks to be very expansive.

On the temporary side, the H-1B program is likely to at least double from its already large current size of 700,000 some workers here. And the L-1 and OPT work visas remain uncapped and largely unregulated.

A key issue not addressed in the hearing was the number of legal permanent residents who will be cleared from backlogs, as well as future flows of greencards. While I believe that the US economy and American labor market can absorb somewhat higher levels of greencards without adversely impacting American workers, the numbers in this bill may be high enough to create significant negative impacts for American workers. **Many of the skilled greencard provisions are uncapped and bypass the labor certification process, so there is no way to predict, nor control, the future dynamics of those seeking greencards.**

There are very low standards, a STEM degree and work in a related field, required to gain one of these greencards. So, we can easily predict that the program will be so attractive that large numbers of ordinary skilled workers will soon begin to crowd out American workers and students in those fields.

This key issue was not addressed in any of the hearings on this bill yet it might have the most lasting and largest impact on the American labor market.

The bill eliminates labor certification for all STEM graduate students and eliminates the cap on their numbers. This will create perverse incentives in the market. Employers will be tempted to replace their older incumbent workers with cheaper fresh graduates, fueling age discrimination. And universities will be placed in a conflict of interest by becoming the sole gatekeeper for issuing greencards. **Universities will essentially be able to sell greencards to foreign students.** Given that Masters degrees are short in duration, and have little oversight from outside bodies, this provision will make it inexpensive for foreigners to purchase greencards. We will see a flood of foreign student applications, which will crowd out American students from the STEM fields. Those foreign students will in turn flood the labor market in the STEM fields, depressing wages, and further steering American students from studying these fields.

The skilled greecard provisions in the bill should be modified to significantly raise the standards, institute a labor certification, and the program should be capped. The H-1B, L-1, and OPT programs need significantly more safeguards included.