



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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- *Senator John Watkins speaks on the importance of the upcoming public hearings*

For immediate release:

July 7, 2008

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Community invited to speak on immigration issues

Governor's Commission on Immigration to hold public hearing in Norfolk

Norfolk – Area residents are invited to present comments to the Governor's Commission on Immigration at its next public hearing, scheduled for Wednesday, July 16 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Raleigh Building on the second floor of [Sentara Norfolk General Hospital](#), 600 Gresham Drive. The Commission is seeking public input on how immigration issues are affecting Virginia.

The public is encouraged to comment on immigration issues specifically related to the Hampton Roads area, as the Commission will conduct additional hearings in other parts of the Commonwealth. The Norfolk public hearing is the only one scheduled for the area. Other hearings will be held in Harrisonburg and Richmond and have already been held in Fairfax and Roanoke.

Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person. Sign up for public comment will begin onsite at 5:00 p.m. Written comments can also be submitted in advance for Commission review prior to the meeting via email at immigration.commission@governor.virginia.gov, or by mail to:

Governor's Commission on Immigration
c/o Matt Gross
7 North 8th Street, 6th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

The Governor's Commission on Immigration is charged with studying, reporting and making recommendations to address the costs and benefits of immigration on the Commonwealth related to education, health care, law enforcement, local demands for services, the economy and the effects of federal immigration and funding policies. The Commission is chaired by Senator John Watkins (R-Powhatan) and co-chaired by Delegate Jackson Miller (R-Manassas). For more information, contact Matt Gross at (804) 726-7087, or matt.gross@dss.virginia.gov or visit <http://www.hhr.virginia.gov/Initiatives/ImmigrationCommission/>.

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For additional information, audio clips and comments from Sen. Watkins, please listen to the attached podcast, located near the top of the page above the date.