



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:

May 6, 2008

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Community invited to speak on immigration issues

Virginia Commission on Immigration to hold public hearing at GMU

Fairfax, Va. – The Virginia Commission on Immigration will hold its first of five statewide public hearings on Thursday, May 22 in the Johnson Center Cinema on the campus of George Mason University. The Commission is seeking public input on how immigration issues are affecting Virginia.

The public is encouraged to focus their input to immigration issues affecting Northern Virginia, as the Commission will conduct additional hearings in other parts of the Commonwealth. Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person. Sign up for public comment will be onsite at 1:00 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:

Virginia Commission on Immigration

c/o Matt Gross

7 North Eight Street, 6th Floor

Richmond, VA 23219

The Virginia 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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