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**Discussant comments for:
“The Impact of Refugees on High-School Academic
Achievement, and Post-secondary Education”**

First I would like to say this is a great paper on an important and relevant topic and I very much look forward to seeing the future of this project.

To briefly summarize, this paper uses variation in the settlement patterns of Indochinese refugees in the 1970's and 1980's to examine whether the presence of refugees had any effect on the test scores, post-secondary educational attainment, and school choice of native children after controlling for observable characteristics. The paper finds no effect on test scores, some increase in graduation rates and a small decrease in native students obtaining an associates' degree.

This paper adds to the literature on peer effects in education and the literature on the effect of the effects of immigration on outcomes for natives. Importantly this is the first paper to look specifically at the effect of refugees from a war zone on student outcomes in the United States. This is important because there is good evidence that those who are exposed to war may have significantly different. This is an especially important topic given the large recent flows of refugees from war zones and the ever-present possibility that those flows could increase dramatically.

I think you've already proposed some promising new directions to take the paper in to help alleviate concerns that settlement patterns may have been non-random such as the propensity score matching and the instrumental variables approach.

I think it would be interesting to learn more about the academic achievement of the refugees themselves. How likely were they to finish high school or attend post-secondary school? I think knowing this would help us to form better expectations about what we expect the effect might have been. Perhaps this was a group of students who once they mastered English, integrated very well into the school system, had few disciplinary problems and graduated at high rates or perhaps they struggled academically and

I think its really great how you made use of different data sources to construct an adjusted share of refugees at the zip code level. I think it would be interesting if you could show us how likely children within the same zipcode are to attend the same school so we get a good idea of how precise the measure of exposure is.

I think one of the next big steps for this paper is to do more to help us interpret the results. One of my concerns is that the share of refugees at the zip code level seems fairly low and so I would expect the effect sizes on average student performance to be small. Also given that only a small share (I think 6%) of schools have an adjusted share above 1% I am worried that fraction who receive treatment may be too small to pick up small effects. Perhaps you could go back to the peer effects literature and get some Idea of a worst-case scenario. What kind of effect sizes would we expect to see if a school district has a 1% increase in extremely disruptive/needy students and is there enough power in your study to rule out those kinds of effects.