

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman And Members of the Judiciary Committee

RE: HB 388 - Criminal Procedure-Civil Immigration Enforcement - Restrictions - Opposed

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women oppose HB 388. This legislation undermines cooperation and trust between Federal law enforcement officers and Maryland State and local law enforcement officers and organizations. This cooperation is vital for the safety and protection of all people in our State and in our Country.

We face many dangers from unchecked illegal immigration, including illegal drugs flooding across our borders leading to many young peoples' deaths; and, gang members who prey on and harm citizens and immigrants – legal and illegal. HB 388 will forbid a corrections officer from notifying federal officials when a person convicted of a violent felony including rape or murder is to be released. It puts the Federal officials and community at greater risk if the officers must arrest a released felon on the street rather than in the correctional facility.

"Sanctuary" policies encourage masses of people from all over the world to cross our borders without following our legal requirements for immigration. It encourages people to enter our country on a temporary visa and not leave. They feel our laws are meaningless. We are not against immigrants but we must have an orderly process. The United States of America is entitled, as is every other country, to decide on who and how many people can enter and reside here.

HB 388 will encourage additional illegal immigration. It breaks down communication and cooperation among law enforcement at Federal, State and local levels that could lead to chaos and lack of response in a crisis. It leaves citizens and immigrants at greater risk. It is well meaning but badly flawed policy.

Please give HB 388 an Unfavorable Report.

Sincerely, Ella Ennis Legislative Chairman

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