

Dear Chair and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Members,

Please oppose SB 523, "Professional/Occupational Licenses For Illegal Aliens" because of these reasons.
The Bill:

1. Violates and Undermines Federal Law

- Federal law is plainly designed to preclude illegal aliens from receiving commercial and professional licenses as a “public benefit” under 8 U.S.C. § 1621. Current Law: The federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 generally denies eligibility for many State or local public benefits to an alien (any person not a citizen or national of the United States). Certain exceptions apply, both to eligible individuals and to eligible public benefits. For example, emergency health services and some social services (such as soup kitchens and shelters) are excluded. However, federal law expressly denies eligibility to nonexempt aliens for a professional license or commercial license provided by an agency of a State or local government or by appropriated funds of a State or local government. A state may establish that an individual who is not lawfully present in the United States is eligible for any State or local public benefit for which such an individual would otherwise be ineligible only through the enactment of a state law after August 22, 1996, which affirmatively makes such individuals eligible for specified benefits.
- Granting a professional license to illegal aliens frustrates the purpose and objectives of federal immigration law.
- Illegal aliens have no legal right to remain in the United States and are prohibited from being employed; granting them occupational licenses helps them directly violate the law.

2. Is Unfair to U.S. Citizens and Legal Immigrants, and is Unconstitutional

- Professionals are expected to follow the law and be held to high standards yet these licenses are privileges being granted to people who violate the law every day.
- If illegal aliens can gain these benefits, this is a slap in the face to legal immigrants who’ve waited years and spent thousands of dollars to come here the right way.
- Licensing illegal aliens deprives citizens and legal immigrants of job and business opportunities.

3. Acts as a Magnet For More Illegal Immigration

- Every benefit at taxpayer expense a state gives to illegal aliens encourages more illegal immigration
- Illegal immigration acts a drain on state resources that could otherwise be spent on citizens and legal immigrants

4. Is unsafe for public

- Illegal immigrants caused lots of crisis already and never be background checked like U.S. citizens and legal immigrants. If more safety issues generated by the illegal immigrants, We The People will do more things to stop the situation by law suit, recall the related government staffs and representatives.

Maryland taxpayers already spend too much paying for illegal aliens and don't need to spend even more
Don't we have more problems than to ignore the Federal immigration laws? Please oppose this Bill.

Respectfully,

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