



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chairman
and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **SB-211** Probation Before Judgement -Probation Agreements – **OPPOSED**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women opposes SB-211. Under federal law, probation before judgement is grounds for the deportation of illegal immigrants. This bill is specifically designed to circumvent that law. SB-211 authorizes the Court to withhold making a formal judgement for the express purpose of avoiding the possibility of deportation of the guilty party.

It would allow the Court to make findings of fact sufficient to support a guilty verdict but, instead of making a formal determination, allow the defendant to sign a probation agreement that the guilty finding and maximum sentence would be imposed if the defendant violates the agreement.

An illegal immigrant in such a case has already violated the laws of the United States by entering the country illegally. Then, the illegal immigrant committed a crime while present in Maryland.

How many crimes do we allow an illegal immigrant to commit before deportation is deemed appropriate? Do we continue to prevent the deportation of an illegal immigrant when they commit a 3rd crime? Perhaps a more serious crime than the earlier one?

When do we enforce the laws of our country? Where is the commitment to the safety of American citizens and legal immigrants?

Please give SB-211 an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women