



MARYLAND FEDERATION
of
Republican Women

Re: SB 197 – Maryland Federation of Republican Women (MFRW) - SUPPORT

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chairman
and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly support SB 197. This legislation will require State or local correctional facilities to provide notice to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (U.S. DHS) that an individual who is the subject of an immigration detainer will be released in 72 hours in cases where the individual has been charged with or convicted of a crime of violence or violation of Title 9, subsection 8 of the Criminal law (membership in gangs). SB 197 also provides that if the individual is the subject of a criminal warrant the state or local correction facility may maintain custody of the individual for up to 48 hours beyond the release time for U.S. DHS to assume custody of the individual.

Gang violence has risen in recent years as illegal immigration has increased. Serious crimes are committed by some illegal immigrants. These violent crimes are often committed against other immigrants – legal or illegal. Last year in one month 8 illegal immigrants were arrested for rape in Montgomery County. Some of the victims were minors and most were immigrants. Prince George’s County was the site of a horrific murder by a gang where a young man was stabbed nearly 100 times and his body dumped in another state. Many, many other examples can be cited. We are not helping to keep our citizens or immigrants (whether legal or illegal) safe by allowing State or local correctional facilities to refuse to cooperate and notify US DHS when a person subject to an immigration detainer is to be released from a correctional facility.

Police, Correctional Facility Personnel and Immigration Enforcement Officers are all working hard to keep our citizens safe. We don’t have to agree on immigration policy to accept that gangs are harmful to our citizens and immigrants alike and immigrants convicted of serious criminal offenses or are members of violent gangs should be deported. We are citizens of both the United States, the State of Maryland and the County in which we reside. We pay taxes to all of these units of government and expect that officials will respect the law and cooperate across jurisdictions to maintain the safety of all people.

The decisions of some jurisdictions to refuse to notify US DHS of an impending release of an illegal person, subject to an immigration detainer, endangers the public, the immigrant and the Federal officers. It would much safer for all if the person is taken into custody inside the correctional facility and not after a search on public or private property where others may be endangered.

SB 197 is a very reasonable approach to dealing with this very serious safety issue. Please vote for a favorable Report.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
MFRW Legislative Chairman
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