

I am here today in opposition to SB 850 because this bill is designed to dismantle the detention system used to hold aliens for immigration proceedings and, ultimately, removal when it is ordered.

The dismantling effort has many fronts and they include steps taken by the government itself, lawsuits by advocacy groups like those seen here today supporting this bill; quasi-scholarly reports, and a concerted media campaign to sway public opinion.

The Obama administration began this dismantling and became a prime mover in this effort by simply failing to detain when it was most crucial. Today, this failure to follow Federal Immigration Law has begun to be reversed by an administration that is sending a loud message to the world that the United States is no longer going to either tolerate or encourage illegal intrusions. Today, the sponsors of SB 850 are orchestrating a disingenuous effort to deny law enforcement the ability to keep alien criminals off our streets and away from the communities they prey upon.

The advocates of protecting criminal aliens insult citizens of our country who have been more generous to legal immigrants than all other countries in the world combined. These advocates will pursue legal avenues and often use blatant misrepresentations, claiming the plight of immigrant children as a strategy for releasing entire groups of aliens. A society that values its laws, and honors its citizens, realizes that DHS and the Justice Department are executing Federal law, and any State that seeks to defy the law doesn't understand or care why detention of aliens is an important and fundamental part of any orderly immigration control system.

A society cannot pick and choose which Federal laws it will follow. Neither Maryland, nor any other state, can create its own immigration laws or system, or refuse to enforce these laws; just as it cannot create or refuse to enforce Federal Civil Rights laws.

I have testified on these fraudulent "immigration rights" bills for many years before this body. I have heard the illegal immigration advocates issue pseudo-academic reports declaring why alien detention should not be utilized. These include the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Immigration Law Center, the ACLU, the SEIU, Casa of Maryland, Jews United for Justice and many, many more. These same groups have enriched themselves with tax dollars, both state and federal, while they advocate broad based amnesty and have lobbied against both detention and meaningful border control.

In essence, they have succeeded in forcing citizens to aid and abet the violation of federal law while funding their own destruction. And every American that is a victim of illegal alien crime is not only a victim of a 100% preventable crime, but also victimized by our elected representatives who have violated their oath to govern and protect us by supporting sanctuary legislation.

If you value the dignity of Maryland, and its citizens, I ask for an unfavorable report on SB 850, and an understanding that social justice is not about the sacrifice of American lives through the misuse of our Federal Immigration system; but rather it is about protecting the rights of citizens who have every right to expect that you, our lawmakers, will not break us in the process.