

## SB0850- Oppose

Laurie Halverson  
President, Chevy Chase Republican Women (200 members)  
Potomac, MD  
LD-15

Member of the Judiciary Committee. I am asking you to submit an unfavorable report for SB0850 regarding the "Dignity Not Detention Act." Here are reasons why you should get rid of this bill and never bring it back:

**#1. It makes residents less safe, cuts off federal funds and forces local jurisdictions to comply:** Whoever named this bill the "Dignity Not Detention Act" is only considering what they believe is unfair treatment of illegal immigrants. I am asking, what about the dignity of all Maryland citizens? Shouldn't we be considered? This bill is tying the hands of local jurisdictions, whose leaders have chosen to be in agreement with the federal government in serving as allies in enforcing federal immigration laws that KEEP THEIR RESIDENTS SAFER. The federal government gives \$9.1 million to three jurisdictions in our state that cooperate with ICE through a federal immigration agreement and provide detention centers for serious law offenders who are also illegal immigrants. Passage of SB850 will cut off these funds because **you will be mandating units of local government** that they must no longer take measures they determine are necessary in protecting residents.

**#2. Circumventing Citizens' Rights:** In Article 2 of your Maryland Constitution, it says that the US Constitution is the Supreme Law of the State. In Article 45, it states that the rights shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people. It seems pretty clear to me that you are circumventing the rights of U.S. citizens by preventing local jurisdictions from protecting their citizens, all in the name of "dignity" for serious law breakers who threaten the lives of others. This means, members of the Judiciary Committee, that you are placing illegal immigrant feelings above federal law and the safety of Maryland residents.

**#3. The bill's own language predicts unconstitutionality:** The bill's writers already know this SB850 may not be Constitutional since it has a severability clause to cover all bases in case some of the bill's provisions are ruled invalid in court. Attempting to pass a bill that is similar to laws that are being contested in court is a risky move. Montgomery County, which is a petri dish for Maryland, is on its way to looking like California and is already experiencing negative consequences from its sanctuary policies.