

Hessie L. Harris

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 903**

Several bills have been introduced this session, including this one, with the stated goal of addressing the fear expressed by the otherwise law-abiding illegal alien community of federal immigration enforcement.

Such fear is natural. When people break the law, they fear being caught and having to face the consequences. However, the posture of the state and some local governments that neither of them is required to facilitate or cooperate with federal immigration enforcement.

The opinion is that they are justified in codifying, through these bills including this one, policies that obstruct, undermine and prevent enforcement of law. Any society is in danger of devolving into anarchy and corruption when residents can pick and choose the laws they will obey. Crime does not exist in a vacuum. Impeding and/or obstructing the enforcement of immigration laws creates a breeding ground violation of other laws, both federal.

These laws will continue a policy that relegates American citizens and legal residents to second-class status. They must obey the law or face the consequences. Under these laws, for the most part, illegal aliens will be shielded from such consequences. That fact seriously hampers law enforcement officers from carrying out their duties to protect and serve. Therefore public safety is endangered.

It is alleged that such policies are necessary so that otherwise law-abiding illegal immigrants will feel safe in approaching Maryland agencies for services and not fear deportation if they report crimes to the police. Those services are a large part of the state budget and continually increasing.

There is no fear of deportation in this state. But there is fear of those criminals who prey on illegal aliens. They know where their victims live and work because they all live in the same communities. These bills not only put citizens and legal immigrants at risk but also the illegal aliens that they purport to protect and encourages those intent on wreaking mayhem to flock to this state.

**When you reward bad behavior, you get more of it. In the latter half of 2019, nine rapes committed by illegal aliens were reported. That may well have not been all that occurred. It is well known that victims either do not report rapes at all or delay doing so out of shock, fear, and trauma. Also, brutal murders by MS-13 gang members were brought to light.**

**Extreme scenarios have been suggested as showing the need for this law. It has been stated that illegal aliens are afraid to go to hospitals. From personal experience I know that is not true. Furthermore, there are clinics around the state that provide free or reduced rates with now questions asked. Illegal aliens frequent them.**

**It has been suggested that illegal aliens at hospitals in the midst of medical treatment or in need of it such as a woman giving birth could be arrested. The US Supreme Court has ruled that denying an arrestee or inmate needed medical treatment is a violation of the Eight Amendment to the Constitution against cruel and unusual punishment.**

**It has been suggested that illegal alien children afraid to go to school for fear of being picked up by immigration enforcement. If that were the case, why is it that year after year, the school system has record breaking increases in enrollment. If that were the case, why is it that there is an effort being made to pass a bill that would require a four million dollar investment over ten years.**

**Finally, this bill should not be passed because it is likely to later be expanded to cover other area in the future until federal illegal immigration enforcement is totally forbidden in this state.**