

~~5850, 0901, 0903~~

OPPOSE

My name is **Kathy Gugulis** and I have lived in **Montgomery County** for over **40 years**. I was born and raised in Harford County. Early in my career with USDA, I **visited each of Maryland's 23 counties** during the early years of my career. I **love Maryland and respect its hard-working people**. I am **dismayed** at the direction that **Montgomery County officials** have taken in the past several years in **promoting sanctuary policies** for illegal immigrants that put our **county residents at risk** and am **appalled** that they would try to **export those dangerous policies** to the rest of the wonderful State that I love.

**I oppose Senate Bills 0850, 0901, and 0903** because they will **tie the hands of law enforcement** in getting and keeping some of the most hardened criminals, rapists, and murderers off the street and behind bars. They will **impose unreasonable and chilling requirements on public employees** in schools, hospitals and

courthouses, **prohibiting them from cooperating with Federal immigration authorities.**

**Montgomery County is a sanctuary county.**

Last August, many of us were outraged and horrified by **nine rapes reported in one month** alone, of innocent young women and girls, some as **young as 11 years old** in Montgomery County by people who were in the **country illegally**. The **County Executive and Council** had implemented **sanctuary policies** that prohibited local law enforcement from cooperating with Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In September, **hundreds of people rallied** in front of the County Council building, calling on County officials to **rescind that policy**.

Rather than listening to their constituents, the **County Council** chose to use its official position to issue an **outrageously ideological statement**. They chose to **describe** Montgomery County residents and all those who voiced a **justifiable and sincere outrage** over these reported crimes

as **“Neo-Nazi sympathizers,”** which served only to **foment mistrust and division** in the county. Our elected County Council and Executive tried to **bully and shame and intimidate** people into believing their justifiable outrage was wrong.

**How wrong is that?**

Now the **Montgomery County delegation** to the General Assembly is trying to **export these same dangerous sanctuary policies to the rest of the State.** They claim they are trying to be **“welcoming”** to **“immigrants,”** regardless of their legal status, when in fact their policies are causing the **most damage** to the very communities they purport to protect.

The **young women and children** who were so **horrendously violated** last summer lived in the same communities as their attackers, who often were **released from the county jail back into their communities.** How is that **fair or welcoming?** How does that protect the innocent victims? Would you want to live in the same

community as someone who raped and brutalized you?

If you work in a public hospital, you could be sued for asking someone their country of origin, even if there is a public health risk such as **corona virus or ebola risk**. If you are a **police officer**, trying to curb drug trafficking or human trafficking, you could be held **personally liable for asking someone their nationality**. How is that **fair** to these individuals who are charged with protecting citizens, or how **fair** is that to the rest of the **law abiding people** in Maryland?

Montgomery County is one of the **most diverse counties** in the nation. We have **immigrants** who come from all parts of the world seeking to live a **better life** and to **enjoy the freedoms** that America offers to those who are willing to work hard and **obey its laws**. They come because we are a **nation of laws**. I've talked to many **legal immigrants who are appalled and dismayed** by

the county's **sanctuary policies** for people who jumped the line and are here illegally.

By allowing such sanctuary policies, County officials have **sown seeds of discontent and distrust** among those who came to this country the right way and who obey its laws. They are trying to set up a **dual system of law**—if you are born and raised here, you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law if you commit a crime. But, if you are **here illegally, you will be protected** if you break the law and released back into society without question. It will take a long time for Montgomery County to **recover from the damage these sanctuary policies** have caused. I urge you to **reject these bills to keep the rest of the State safe** from the same fate. Thank you.