

Dear Maryland General Assembly House Judiciary Committee members:

Re: We oppose HB 0388

As a representative with *Victims of Immigration Fraud*, representing thousands of US residents and citizens, I urge you to oppose the proposal prohibiting law enforcement agents from enquiring about an individual immigration status; and prohibiting law enforcement agents from detaining, transferring or notifying federal law enforcement authorities with an individual's location.

HB 0388 will impinge on federal law enforcement's ability to apprehend dangerous criminals, which in effect creates a safe haven for them. If enacted these sanctuary policies would release dangerous criminals, including rapists, domestic violence abusers, drug smugglers and gang members back into the community, harming innocent Maryland residents, including immigrants themselves. These anti-immigration enforcement policies would directly contradict a half century of immigration enforcement, and immigration judicial jurisprudence as well.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD- A DISASTROUS 'SANCTUARY POLICY' LABORATORY**

Montgomery, County Maryland has already been functioning as a sanctuary for immigrant criminals, resulting in a catastrophic failure. Beginning in 2014, Montgomery County implemented a policy preventing the county police force from complying with ICE detainers. Since that time Montgomery County experienced an explosion in reported rapes.

A Montgomery County 2018 police report on "crime and safety" reveals that rapes in Montgomery County skyrocketed a stunning 304% since the enactment of the County policy- from 126 cases reported in 2014 to 509 cases in 2018. (1) Prior to 2014 rapes were on a flat trajectory with 124 cases (2009) to 126 cases (2014). Meanwhile the number of forcible rapes reported in the USA rose slightly from 84,864 in 2014 to 101,151 in 2018. (2)

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(1) [https://montgomerycountymd.gov/POL/Resources/Files/PDF/PDResources/MCPD\\_Annual%20Report%20Crime%20Safety\\_2018.pdf](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/POL/Resources/Files/PDF/PDResources/MCPD_Annual%20Report%20Crime%20Safety_2018.pdf)

(2) <https://www.statista.com/statistics/191137/reported-forcible-rape-cases-in-the-usa-since-1990/>

The following high profile cases illustrate the hypocrisy of Montgomery County's "recklessly dangerous sanctuary experiment":

- A Honduran undocumented immigrant was charged with strangling, and raping a woman near her Silver Spring, apartment on August 18, 2019
- A 46 year old undocumented El Salvador man allegedly threatened a 16 year old Germantown girl with a knife and raped her.
- Another 29 year old El Salvadoran man allegedly raped an 11 year old girl at a trailer park in Germantown, Maryland in July 2018.
- Another 28 year old man from El Salvador allegedly raped the same 11 year old girl. He was removed from the US in 2016 and later returned.
- A 25 year old Salvadoran man was arrested for second degree rape and assault. He was released after posting bond by another woman, but before ICE was properly notified.
- On August 24, 2019 an undocumented rideshare driver originally from Nigeria allegedly drugged and raped a Bethesda, Maryland woman.

These above cases likely representing the tip of a terrible iceberg, were cited from "Nine Illegal alien sex assaults reported since Montgomery County, MD Sanctuary Policy declared".

## **THE MYTH SURROUNDING SANCTUARY POLICIES**

Immigrant advocates are feeding false narratives that local police cooperation with ICE would prevent illegal immigrants from reporting crimes for fear of deportation. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is a tremendous incentive for them to report crimes because they can apply for a U Visa- also known as the crime victim visa. The mere act of applying for a "U Visa" prevents their deportation, gives them work status and provides lucrative government benefits and potential pathway to citizenship. This is a powerful incentive for real victims to help solve crimes and develop trust between police and undocumented immigrants.

## **CONCLUSION**

As a resident of Montgomery County I have witnessed reckless and dangerous sanctuary policies endangering its residents. The Judiciary Committee should oppose HB 0388. Left unheeded the enactment of this bill would endanger all Maryland residents and immigrants alike by harboring dangerous criminals and greatly increasing financial burdens of taxpayers.

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