

STATEMENT BY BRAD BOTWIN, DIRECTOR, HELP SAVE MARYLAND.ORG

BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**HB338 "CRIMINAL PROCEDURE-CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT-
RESTRICTIONS"**

**HB403 "IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT-PUBLIC SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND
COURTHOUSES-POLICIES"**

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

"Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfills the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things."

- Sir Winston Churchill

MY NAME IS BRAD BOTWIN AND I'M THE DIRECTOR OF HELP SAVE MARYLAND.ORG, A STATE-WIDE, 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION WHICH EDUCATES MARYLAND CITIZENS (INCLUDING OUR LEGISLATORS) ON THE FINANCIAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

I'M HERE TODAY TO EXPRESS MY SERIOUS CONCERNS WITH HB338 AND HB403, TWO BLATANT, POLITICIALLY MOTIVATED BILLS PROMOTING STATE SANCTUARY, INTRODUCED FOR THE SOLE BENEFIT OF MARYLAND'S GROWING ILLEGAL ALIEN POPULATION AND THEIR LOCAL ENABLERS. THIS IS THE 5TH TIME SINCE 2014 THAT THIS ELECTED BODY HAS SUBJECTED THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND TO THIS UNNECESSARY, AND IF IMPLEMENTED, QUITE DANGEROUS LEGISLATION.

BOTH HB338 AND HB403 WILL INTERFERE WITH FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TO REMOVE ILLEGAL ALIEN CRIMINALS FROM OUR JAILS AND COMMUNITIES. SPECIFICALLY THE TWO BILLS, IN NEO-CONFEDERATE FASHION, WILL:

- PROHIBIT STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM HONORING ALL U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) DETAINER REQUESTS FOR ANY ILLEGAL ALIEN OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE FROM CUSTODY;

- PROHIBIT STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM ASKING ABOUT THE IMMIGRATION STATUS OR PLACE OF BIRTH OF ANY ARRESTED INDIVIDUAL, OR STOPPING,

ARRESTING, SEARCHING OR DETAINING AN INDIVIDUAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS OR EXECUTING ICE WARRANTS;

-REQUIRE THE MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL TO “ADVISE” PUBLIC SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND COURTHOUSES TO LIMIT FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES ON THEIR PREMISES;

-REQUIRE MARYLAND COUNTIES (FREDERICK, CECIL AND HARFORD) THAT ARE PARTNERED WITH ICE THROUGH THE FEDERAL 287G PROGRAM TO END THEIR SUCCESSFUL FORCE-MULTIPLIER LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION;

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LAWLESS SECTIONS OF HB388 AND HB403. WE AS TAXPAYING CITIZENS ARE AT A LOSS AS TO HOW PASSAGE OF THESE TWO BILLS WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL MARYLAND RESIDENTS?

AS WE HAVE SEEN IN OTHER SANCTUARY JURISDICTIONS NATION-WIDE, SUCH AS THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND NEW YORK CITY, REFUSAL TO ALLOW STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO COOPERATE WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) DOES LITTLE TO HELP THOSE HERE ILLEGALLY (BUT NOT COMMITTING CRIMES).

INSTEAD SANCTUARY JURISDICTIONS ENDANGER LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS AND LEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE SUBJECT TO INCREASED LEVELS OF CRIME, RAPE, AND MS-13 GANG VIOLENCE BY BRAZEN, OFTEN REPEAT, OFFENDERS WELL AWARE THAT SANCTUARY STATUS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD FOR THEIR ALIEN CRIMINAL STATUS.

IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, THE SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A SHOCKING 23 PERCENT RECIDIVISION RATE IN 2019 FOR ILLEGALS RELEASED FROM JAIL BUT NOT TURNED OVER TO ICE AS REQUESTED. THE DREADFUL JANUARY 2020 RAPE AND MURDER OF A 92 YEAR OLD WOMEN IN NEW YORK CITY BY A WANTED ILLEGAL ALIEN, WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER ICE, IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE DANGEROUS SANCTUARY POLICY YOU NOW WANT TO FORCE ON MARYLAND CITIZENS.

MY OWN JURISDICTION, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND, IS ANOTHER PERFECT EXAMPLE OF SANCTUARY POLICY GONE WRONG. LAST YEAR THERE WERE HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS AND RAPES IN THE COUNTY, A MASSIVE INCREASE OVER 2018, MANY COMMITTED BY ILLEGAL ALIENS. ALIENS THAT IN MOST CASES WERE KNOW TO COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS. I’M SURE THIS COMMITTEE IS WELL AWARE OF THE CARNAGE THAT TOOK PLACE IN MONTGOMEY LATE SUMMER 2019 WHERE NO LESS THAN 9 YOUNG GIRLS, 15 AND UNDER, WERE ASSAULTED AND RAPED IN A TWO MONTH PERIOD BY THESE LAW-BREAKING ALIENS.

OUR NEO-CONFEDERATE COUNTY OFFICIALS ACTUALLY PUBLICALLY DEFENDED THESE ALIENS AND SANCTUARY, AND THUS THEIR HORRIFIC CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN, AND CONTINUE TO REFUSE ENHANCED COOPERATION WITH ICE. I AM PROUD TO SAY HELP SAVE MARYLAND AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ALONG WITH MANY HUNDREDS OF CONCERNED LOCAL CITIZENS PROTESTED THESE NEEDLESS RAPES AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARK ELRICH'S PITIFUL OFFER OF RAPE COUNSELING FOR THESE UNDERAGE VICTIMS. FEMALE VICTIMS THAT WERE, IN FACT, HISPANIC IMMIGRANTS TO OUR COUNTY.

ARE THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE PREPARED FOR THE SAME HORRIBLE OUTCOMES AND THE SAME CITIZEN PROTESTS AND MORE FROM YOUR CONSTITUTENTS ACROSS THE STATE? YEAR AFTER YEAR I FIND MYSELF REMINDING THIS COMMITTEE THAT CITIZENS AND LEGAL IMMIGRANTS, RATHER THAN ILLEGAL ALIENS, ARE YOUR CONSTITUENTS. I ALSO CONTINUE TO BE SHOCKED THAT OUR LEGISLATORS REPRESENTING MARYLAND'S BLACK COMMUNITIES READILY CO-SPONSOR TOXIC LEGISLATION LIKE HB388 AND HB403. THE BRUNT OF THE CRIME, DECLINE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTHCARE, AND THE LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FALLS MOST HEAVILY ON YOUR BLACK (AND LEGAL HISPANIC) CONSTITUENTS.

BOTH BILLS HAVE THE IMPRIMATUR OF CASA OF MARYLAND, THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU), THE ACLU AND OTHER ANTI-CITIZEN GROUPS. AMNESTY AND SANCTUARY MAY BE DEAD IN CONGRESS BUT CASA AND THEIR FRIENDS IN ANNAPOLIS ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO MAKE IT HAPPEN IN MARYLAND.

WHY ARE BOTH BILLS A BAD IDEA FOR MARYLAND?

CREATES AN UNWANTED SAFE HAVEN - OTHER STATES AND CITIES THAT HAVE SIMILAR LAWS IN PLACE HAVE BECOME MAJOR MAGNETS FOR INCREASED ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, CRIME, PROSTITUTION, AND DRUG TRAFFICKING. MORE ILLEGAL ALIENS = MORE K-12 EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL WELFARE COSTS WHICH RESULTS IN A DECLINING STANDARD OF LIVING FOR MARYLANDERS. OUR OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE IN MARYLAND IS ALREADY ON THE DECLINE DUE TO HIGH TAXES, DEBT, AND ERODING SERVICES. HOW MANY MORE MARYLANDERS HAVE TO LEAVE THE STATE BEFORE ANNAPOLIS GETS THE MESSAGE?

WASTE OF TAX DOLLARS - LAST TIME I CHECKED MARYLAND WAS STILL PART OF THE UNITED STATES. BOTH BILLS WILL FORCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO EXPEND MANPOWER AND TAX DOLLARS TO TRACK DOWN AND ARREST DEPORTABLE CRIMINALS ALREADY ARRESTED AND HELD IN MARYLAND JAILS. AT THE END OF THE DAY WE ALL PAY THE TAX TAB FOR THIS IF EITHER BILL BECOMES LAW.

UNDERMINES TRUST BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND "IMMIGRANTS" - WE HAVE HEARD A LOT OF NONSENSE FROM THE CASAS AND THE LAWLESS MONTOMERY, PRINCE GEORGE'S

AND BALTIMORE CITY OFFICIALS THAT ILLEGAL ALIENS WON'T REPORT CRIMES IF POLICE WORK WITH ICE. THE FACTS ARE THAT POLICE DO NOT INQUIRE ABOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS OF WITNESSES OR VICTIMS OF CRIME. ALL CITIZENS, LEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND YES EVEN ILLEGAL ALIENS DESERVE TO BE SAFE FROM CRIMINALS WANTED BY ICE.

LEGISLATORS WHO PROMOTE OR SPONSOR BILLS LIKE HB388 AND HB403 DESERVE OUR DISDAIN RATHER THAN OUR RESPECT OR VOTES. JEOPARDIZING THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF MARYLAND CITIZENS, SIMILAR TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CALIFORNIA AND NEW YORK CITY IS JUST WRONG. WE SHOULD BE STRENGTHENING RATHER THEN CUTTING TIES WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I REQUEST THIS COMMITTEE TABLE BOTH BILLS AND INSTEAD WORK ACROSS THE AISLE TO PROMOTE MARYLAND'S ECONOMY AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CITIZENS AND LEGAL IMMIGRANTS. ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE STEALING OUR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES, AND OVERWHELMING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS. UNCONTESTED ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS THE PROBLEM IN MARYLAND, NOT FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT DEPORTATION ACTIVITIES OF WANTED CRIMINAL ALIENS.

THANK YOU.

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