

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

As a fellow Marylander and someone who has respect for federal law, I, along with many others, oppose House Bill 677. House Bill 677 would end our local law enforcement's ability "TO HOUSE OR DETAIN INDIVIDUALS FOR FEDERAL CIVIL IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS" (HB0677, p. 2, lines 18-19). Although it may seem appropriate that matters related to federal civil immigration violations be handled by the federal government exclusively as this bill seeks to accomplish, ***as it is currently written*** this bill does not serve the best interest of our safety. HB677 would strip our local law enforcement's authority to work in cooperation with the federal government to protect the people whom they serve from people who may be a risk to their safety and may already have a history of committing violent crimes, for example. Rather than empower our local law enforcement to carry out its responsibility to protect those whom it serves, HB677 would undermine our law enforcement's agency in fulfilling its duty to protect.