

**PRESIDENT**

Daniel Stein

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Bob Dane

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Donald A. Collins Jr., Chairman

Duane Austin

Douglas E. Caton, Maj. Gen., USAR (Ret.)

Kevin Donaleski

James Dorcy

Frank Morris, Ph.D.

S. Blake Swensrud II

**NATIONAL BOARD OF ADVISORS**

Nancy Anthony

The Hon. Louis Barletta

Sharon Barnes

Gwat Bhattacharjie

Gerda Bikales

The Hon. Brian Bilbray

J. Bayard Boyle Jr.

Hugh Brien

John Brock

Pat Choate, Ph.D.

Donald A. Collins Sr.\*

Clifford Colwell, M.D.

Thomas Connolly

Alfred P. Doyle, M.D.

Dino Drudi

Paul Egan

Bob Eggle, Capt., USAR (Ret.)

Sarah G. Epstein\*

Don Feder

Robert Gillespie

Joseph R. Guzzardi

Hessie L. Harris

Dale Herder

Sheriff Thomas Hodgson

Glenn Jackson

Carol Joyal

The Hon. Richard Lamm

Roy C. Lierman

Donald Mann

Jack Martin

K.C. McAlpin

Scott McConnell

James G. McDonald, Esq.

Paul K. Nachman

Peter Nuñez

Fred Pinkham, Ph.D.

Randall Pullen

Bruce S. Reid

Teela Roche

The Hon. Alan Simpson

The Hon. Lamar Smith

John Philip Sousa IV

Alan N. Weeden

The Hon. Curtin Winsor Jr.

\*Board of Directors Emeritus

*FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest.*



FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh and other distinguished members of the Committee,

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is an non-profit, non-partisan organization of concerned individuals who believe that our immigration law must be reformed to serve our nation’s interests.

FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigrataion on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment.

Founded in 1979, FAIR has three million members and supporters nationwide including approximately 12,300 in Maryland. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR’s strong opposition to House Bill (HB) 15. FAIR opposes the establishment of the Governor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs.

The Governor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs is tasked with establishing a “network of neighborhood-based opportunity centers” that among other things will provide immigration services to illegal aliens, assisting illegal aliens with matters relating to immigration status which includes helping DACA individuals with their applications, connecting illegal and legal aliens with employment resources, assisting local governments in the development of activities to enhance civic engagement, and creating a hotline to disseminate information and refer for services.

Creating special services and privileges for one segment of the population tells residents that certain segments of the population are more favored than others and it sows distrust in the government. Instead of directing these resources to the needs of the community as a whole, it is promoting “welfare rights” for those who are illegally in the country.



Moreover, creating a Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs institutes policies that direct resources to illegal aliens, shifting the cost of illegal immigration onto Maryland taxpayers. It will also serve as a magnet for more illegal immigration resulting in higher costs of living, reduced job availability, lower wages, and higher crime rates in the State.

Additionally, it will put a strain on Maryland's capacity to help the truly needy in the state. The COVID-19 pandemic has already stretched state resources dramatically. Maryland cannot afford new offices and programs that do not directly benefit Marylanders but those who are here illegally.

This bill suggests that it is important to create trust in the immigrant community and that is accomplished through civic engagement. However, instead of creating trust, it will cause division among Maryland residents.

For the aforementioned reasons, FAIR opposes HB 15.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, if I may be of assistance. I may be reached by email at [srendall@fairus.org](mailto:srendall@fairus.org) or by phone at 202-328-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Rendall". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Shari" and "Rendall" being capitalized and prominent.

Shari Rendall