

Testimony - Governor's Office Immigrant Affairs HB

Uploaded by: Alheri, Onyinye

Position: FAV

Testimony for the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 9, 2021

SB 0085– Creating Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

FAVORABLE

To Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee members,

My name is Onyinye Alheri and I live in Baltimore, Maryland, in the 40th Legislative district. I am writing to urge the House Appropriations Committee to issue a favorable report on HB0015 and establish a Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

In order to lead healthy lives with dignity, freedom and respect, US migrants benefit best from holistic community-based resources that provide guidance on a path to naturalization and sufficiency. Immigrants comprise nearly 15% of Maryland's population and 10% of Baltimore's population (both numbers that are growing steadily each year. These populations are disproportionately uninsured and less likely to access social services to which they are entitled, often for fear of retaliation and persecution from government agencies.

Undocumented migrants do not qualify for many social services including Medicaid, SSI and SNAP, while documented migrants qualify but often face significant barriers to access. Although migrants can obtain coverage via their employers, many are low-income and tend to be employed in industries that do not offer employee-sponsored coverage. Without access to a living wage and healthcare coverage, immigrant communities face significant barriers in obtaining the healthcare that they need. Further, the effects of deportation have a lasting impact on migrants and our families, inducing trauma and further displacement.

Maryland can better address the needs of its migrant communities by establishing a Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, which can create a network of trusted community-based centers that provide migrant services while reducing interaction and collaboration with persecutive agencies like ICE. The services provided at this office can increase access to language programs, assist migrants with the naturalization process, connect migrants to workforce development programs, and reduce the exploitation of migrants. I support this effort because it will increase access to essential healthcare services and reduce health disparities for immigrant communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Onyinye Alheri

Intern - Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service

CC-SB85-Office of Immigrant Affairs.pdf

Uploaded by: Dolamore, Matthew

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 85**Creating Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs**

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 9, 2021

Support

Catholic Charities of Baltimore strongly supports SB 85, which would establish the Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

Inspired by the gospel to love, serve and teach, Catholic Charities provides care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. As the largest human service provider in Maryland working with tens of thousands of youth, individuals, and families each year, we stand in solidarity with the immigrant community in Maryland. Through our work at the Esperanza Center, located in the Baltimore neighborhood of Fells Point, we offer our new neighbors ESOL classes, healthcare, legal services, family reunification services and general information.

Each day, Catholic Charities staff interact with Marylanders facing challenges and difficulties, those challenges and difficulties have only escalated during the Pandemic. COVID-19 has laid to bare longstanding inequities in our systems, especially when it comes to the immigrant community. The immigrant community has a disproportionate share of essential workers and a disproportionate share of positive cases. At the same time, the community was denied stimulus payments, often lacked access to healthcare and faced the digital divide.

In Baltimore City, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) not only played a key role in convening and advocating for services to the immigrant community during the Pandemic, but they have a history of standing with the immigrant community in Baltimore. Established in 2014, MIMA has been a dedicated partner of immigrant-supporting organizations and groups in Baltimore, advocating for immigrants across city agencies to make sure that programs and policies are accessible, equitable and supportive of the immigrant community. MIMA also highlights the contributions the immigrant population has made to Baltimore.

This bill envisions replicating MIMA at the state level with a cabinet-level office that would work with immigrant communities and state agencies. The office would be tasked with establishing a network of providers, increasing access to ESOL classes, assisting with immigration legal matters, leveraging immigrants' skills and strengthening the relationship between immigrants and the broader community. These are much needed services that would benefit immigrants across the State.

On behalf of the individuals and families we work with, Catholic Charities of Baltimore appreciates your consideration, and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 85.

Submitted By: Matthew Dolamore, Program Director, Esperanza Center

LoS - Gov's Office of Immigrant Affairs.pdf

Uploaded by: Dove, Spencer

Position: FAV

State of Maryland

Commission on Civil Rights

"Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination."



Officers

Alvin O. Gillard, Executive Director
Nicolette Young, Assistant Director
Glendora C. Hughes, General Counsel

Governor
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Commission Chairperson
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Rabbi Binyamin Marwick
Jeff Rosen
Gina McKnight-Smith, PharmD, MBA

February 9, 2021

Senate Bill 85 – Creating Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs POSITION: Support

Dear Chairperson Pinsky, Vice Chairperson Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights ("MCCR"; "The Commission") is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical and mental disability, and source of income.

Senate Bill 85 establishes the Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and its structure. The Office is mandated to connect immigrants with community resources and support services; support initiatives to increase equity and opportunity with immigrants; reduce barriers to accessibility for immigrants due to language barriers; advise the Governor concerning matters affecting immigrants; coordinate with other state agencies to ensure resource delivery that serves the need of immigrants, and provide support to local governments to support immigrants and their communities. The Office will also be required to submit an Annual Report with specific information on June 15, beginning in 2022.

Unlawful discrimination based on race and national origin continue to be chronic issues facing Marylanders, especially within immigrant communities. Providing access to resources and support services to those who are marginalized and disenfranchised is an effective way to eradicate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality. Leveraging the resources and knowledge of the state government and its partners builds more secure, vibrant, and cohesive communities for everyone's benefit.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges a favorable vote on SB85. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information contained in this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.

PGCYD Press Release 1_21_21.pdf

Uploaded by: Elliott, Richard DeShay

Position: FAV



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Contact: Martin Mitchell

President
410-493-7966/president@pgcyd.com

Prince George's County Young Democrats

Prince George's County, MD - The membership of the Prince George's County Young Democrats Legislative Committee have unanimously supported the following coalitions and policy resolutions.

Coalitions

- Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) Bill Coalition
- Essential Worker's Coalition
- Maryland Rise - Paid Family Leave Coalition

Policy Resolutions

In Support Of:

- The expulsion of Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti. Lisanti referred to District 25 as a “nigger district” in the company of several state legislators. She was censured for this act in February 2019 but has refused to resign.
- The renaming of the House Office Building to honor Congressman Elijah Cummings. Former Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, first Black legislator to be named Speaker Pro Tempore, Congressman from Maryland's 7th Congressional District from 1996-2019, Chair of the Oversight & Reform Committee during the Trump presidency, and leading figure in Trump's impeachment by the House of Representatives.
- Banning the Maryland state government and local governments from the sale or purchase of items produced by prison labor unless paid prevailing wages.
- The Housing Justice package (HB52; HB18/SB154; HB104/SB401). Sponsored by Delegates Vaughn Stewart, Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Melissa Wells, Wanika Fisher and Senators Jill P. Carter, Will Smith, Charles Sydnor, & Shelly Hettleman.
- The Tax Fairness package (HB215; HB262; HB319; HB201). Sponsored by Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr to make Maryland's local property taxes & capital gains taxes are assessed in a progressive manner that lowers the burden for working families and ends tax loopholes in “opportunity zones” & carried interest.
- HB120/SB178. Sponsored by Delegate Gabriel Acevero & Senator Jill P. Carter, to expand public transparency of police data.
- HB15. Sponsored by Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, to create a Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

Written By:

Phylicia Henry, *Chair of Legislative Affairs as a Whole.*

Janna Parker, *Chair of County Affairs.*

Richard DeShay Elliott, *Chair of State Affairs.*

Interested members of the general public are encouraged to join the Prince George's County Young Democrats, regardless of geographic location, as long as they meet two criteria: they are registered Democrats or Independents, and they are below the age of 40.

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- **HB28.** Sponsored by Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, to require Implicit Bias Training for medical professionals.
- **HB309.** Sponsored by Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, to require a racial and ethnic health breakdown in state medical data.
- **HB227.** Sponsored by Delegate Nick Charles, to establish civil liability for improper police calls.
- **HB82.** Sponsored by Delegate Wanika Fisher, to amend the Maryland Constitution to guarantee a clean and safe environment for all Marylanders. **HB82**
- **HB375.** Sponsored by Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, to expand paid family leave in Maryland.
- **HB124.** Sponsored by Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, to protect employees from aerosol-transmitted diseases, including COVID-19.
- **HB411.** Sponsored by Delegate Nicole Williams, to prohibit sexual contact between law enforcement and those under arrest. **HB411**
- **HB63.** Sponsored by Delegate Nicole Williams, to prohibit state expenditures on magnetic levitation transportation systems. **HB63**
- **HB171.** Sponsored by Delegate Alonzo Washington, to study school discipline statistics in Maryland. **HB171**
- **HB206.** Sponsored by Delegate Alonzo Washington. to expand Early Voting hours in Maryland.
- **HB153.** Sponsored by Delegate Julian Ivey, to expand vote by mail in Maryland.
- **HB24.** Sponsored by Delegate Julian Ivey, to make primary and general Election days as state holidays in Maryland.
- **HB336/SB276.** Sponsored by Delegate Julian Ivey & Senator Jill P. Carter. to ban private police departments for universities.
- **HB168/HB221.** Sponsored by Delegates Julian Ivey & Veronica Turner, to address credit discrimination in motor vehicle insurance.
- **HB51.** Sponsored by Delegate Veronica Turner to require environmental justice analysis during the zoning process for landfills.
- **HB172.** Sponsored by Delegate Mary Legman to require combined reporting of corporate income taxes, as is practice in 29 states and DC.
- **HB341.** Sponsored by Delegate Mary Lehman, to begin the tabulation of absentee ballots 14 days before Election Day, as is practice in Arizona.
- **HB524.** Sponsored by Delegate Mary Lehman, to require the presentation of rental licensing during court proceedings involving rental properties.
- **HB194.** Sponsored by Delegate Melissa Wells, to require implicit bias training for police officers.
- **HB413.** Sponsored by Delegate Melissa Wells, to require implicit bias training for

Written By:

Phylicia Henry, *Chair of Legislative Affairs as a Whole.*

Janna Parker, *Chair of County Affairs.*

Richard DeShay Elliott, *Chair of State Affairs.*

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judges.

- **HB355/SB37.** Introduced by Delegate Sheila Ruth & Senator Jill P. Carter, to ensure electronic collection of ballot signatures and expand the public's ability to gather signatures.
- **HB89/SB397.** Sponsored by Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins & Senator Jill P. Carter, to shorter incarceration sentences with academic options.
- **HB222/SB224.** Sponsored by Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins & Senator Chris West, to ensure that incarcerated individuals are aware of their voting rights and are given the opportunity to vote.
- **HB155/SB98.** Sponsored by Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins & Senator Cory McCray, to ban discrimination in pre-k programs and schools.
- **HB41.** Sponsored by Delegate Stephanie Smith, to establish a state banking taskforce.
- **HB320.** Sponsored by Delegate Stephanie Smith, to ease the transfer of credits.
- **Legislation to shield eviction proceedings from the general public and protect the credit and financial history of tenants.** Sponsored by Delegate Nicole Williams.

Favorable With Amendments

- **HB238.** Sponsored by Delegate Melissa Wells, to automatically expunge certain crimes after a certain period of time, expanding job opportunities for returning citizens.
Amendment, introduced by Janna Parker:
“Crimes that have been expunged or not found guilty for, should be retroactively removed from the Maryland CaseSearch database.”
- **HB269.** Sponsored by Delegate Melissa Wells, to create urban agriculture grants.
Amendment, introduced by Richard DeShay Elliott:
“Prince George’s County will be included in the implementation of this bill, following upcoming rezoning”

In Opposition Of:

- **The nomination of Bryon Bereano to the Circuit Court.** Prince George’s County voters did not nominate him to the Court in the 2020 elections. His Senate confirmation should be denied.

“The members of PGCYD remain committed to amplifying their voices on potential policy decisions that could impact their communities and daily life. We look forward to working with our elected leaders to ensure that public policy presented before us, is for us and for the betterment of everyone, and not just a select few”, Henry said.

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Written By:

Phylicia Henry, *Chair of Legislative Affairs as a Whole.*

Janna Parker, *Chair of County Affairs.*

Richard DeShay Elliott, *Chair of State Affairs.*

Interested members of the general public are encouraged to join the Prince George’s County Young Democrats, regardless of geographic location, as long as they meet two criteria: they are registered Democrats or Independents, and they are below the age of 40.

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Comptroller testimony on SB 85.pdf

Uploaded by: Franchot, Comptroller

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support – Senate Bill 85 – Creating Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 9, 2021

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in support of **Senate Bill 85 – Creating Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs**. I would like to thank Sen. Rosapepe for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

One of my favorite Presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, once told a gathering of the Daughters of the American Revolution the following: "Remember always that you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists..." As Marylanders, we must remember always that our own immigrant tradition began with the Ark and the Dove nearly 400 years ago and continues apace with the million immigrants living, working, and worshipping in the state today. These newly-minted Marylanders – among them, naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, visa holders, Dreamers, and the undocumented who together comprise approximately 15% of our population and 20% of our workforce – deserve the recognition and attention that this legislation will provide.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for Senate Bill 85. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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2021-02-09 SB 85 (Support).pdf

Uploaded by: Kemerer, Hannibal

Position: FAV

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General



ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410-576-6584

February 9, 2021

TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: The Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB 85 – Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs — **Letter of Support**

Senate Bill 85 establishes the Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to create a network of neighborhood-based centers providing immigrant services, assisting immigrants with the naturalization process or applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), assist law enforcement in combating crimes against immigrants, and promote civic and economic participation among immigrant communities.

Maryland is a vibrant and diverse state. Approximately 15 percent (911,582) of our population is foreign-born and just over 7 percent (443,489) are noncitizens. Between 2010 and 2014, nearly 300,000 people in Maryland lived with at least one undocumented family member; and 7 percent of U.S. citizen children in Maryland live with at least one undocumented family member.¹ For years, these Marylanders have lived under the constant threat of detention and deportation – an often cruel and inhumane system that rips families apart and captures immigrants with and without lawful status.² Senate Bill 85 counteracts some of the federal hostility towards immigrants that we have witnessed over the past four years by ensconcing in the State executive branch a Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to help these Marylanders navigate our systems.

¹ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-maryland>.

² While immigration raids increased significantly under the Trump Administration, prior federal administrations also arrested and deported Maryland residents and some immigration enforcement is expected to continue under the Biden Administration.

Section 9-3304 of the bill requires the Director of Immigrant Affairs to file annual reports to the Governor and General Assembly describing the activities of the Office to include: (1) summaries of calls and queries received through the hotline and website; (2) information on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); (3) the estimated number of immigrants assisted; (4) the status of workforce development programs; and (5) any other relevant information.

The Office of the Attorney General supports policies, like those proposed in SB 85, that promote the provision of services to immigrants residing in Maryland. Therefore, we urge a favorable report on SB 85.

cc: Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0085.pdf

Uploaded by: Kraska, MJ

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 09, 2021

SB 85

Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Senate Education, Health, Environmental Affairs

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference ("Conference") represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch) dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 85 would establish the Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to create a network of neighborhood-based centers providing immigrant services, assist immigrants in certain matters, assist law enforcement in combatting crimes against immigrants, and promote civic and economic participation among immigrant communities; requiring the Director to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 15 each year describing calls received by the Office, the number of immigrants assisted and all other relevant information

The Catholic Catechism instructs the faithful that good government has two duties, both of which must be carried out and neither of which can be ignored. The first duty is to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person. Persons have the right to immigrate and thus government must accommodate this right to the greatest extent possible, especially financially blessed nations: *"The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him."* Catholic Catechism, 2241. Therefore, the Conference strongly supports legislation that supports the dignity of immigrants and their families.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 85.

SB0085 MD NARAL SUPPORT.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Philip, Diana

Position: FAV



SB0085 - Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs – Established

Presented to the Hon. Paul Pinsky and Members of the
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 9, 2021 1:00 p.m.

POSITION: SUPPORT

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland urges House Appropriations Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB0085 - Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs - Established**, sponsored by Senator Jim Rosapepe.

Our organization is an advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice. In order to lead healthy lives and parent their children with autonomy and dignity, immigrants to the United States require specialized community-based resources that provide guidance on a path to naturalization and fiscal sufficiency.

Immigrants comprise nearly 15% of Maryland's population (a number that is growing each year)¹ and are disproportionately underinsured or uninsured. Unauthorized immigrants do not qualify for coverage options offered by Medicaid, CHIP, or the ACA Marketplace, while authorized immigrants qualify but may face significant restrictions in eligibility. Although immigrants can obtain coverage through their employers, many are low-income and tend to be employed in industries that do not offer employee-sponsored coverage. Without access to a living wage and healthcare coverage, immigrant communities face significant barriers in obtaining the healthcare that they need². Further, the effects of deportation have a lasting impact on immigrant families, inducing trauma upon families and preventing individuals from parenting their children with dignity³.

Maryland can better address the needs of its immigrant communities by establishing the Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, which will create a network of community-based centers that provide immigrant services. These services will increase access to ESOL programs, assist immigrants with the naturalization process, connect immigrants to workforce development programs, and reduce the exploitation of immigrants.

We support this effort because it will increase access to essential healthcare services and reduce health disparities for immigrant communities. For these reasons, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland **urges a favorable committee report on SB0085**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ "Immigrants in Maryland." Immigrants in Maryland Fact Sheet. American Immigration Council, August 6, 2020.

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-maryland>

² Published: Mar 18, 2020. Health Coverage of Immigrants. Kaiser Family Foundation, March 18, 2020. <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/fact-sheet/health-coverage-of-immigrants/>

³ Chabra, Divya, Lisa Fortuna, and Pamela Montana. "Stress & Trauma Toolkit." Stress and Trauma Toolkit. American Psychiatry Association. Accessed January 22, 2021. <https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/cultural-competency/education/stress-and-trauma/undocumented-immigrants>

SB0085_Office_of_Immigrant_Affairs_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Plante, Cecilia

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0085
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Rosapepe

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0085 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members fully support our immigrant neighbors and believe that the creation of this position in will allow for better coordination of services for immigrants. It will make the experience of settling in to our state easier by creating opportunity centers in local neighborhoods to connect them to ESOL classes, help get their children signed up for school, connect them with business opportunities, assist with the naturalization and DACA process as well as handling their questions and concerns. It will also offer a centralized place to deal with crimes against immigrants.

Maryland has always been a welcoming place for immigrants. As we, ourselves are immigrants, we see them as necessary additions to our communities and we believe the creation of this position as a great step at integrating them and helping them get on their feet faster.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Testimony - SB 85 2021 - Opposed.pdf

Uploaded by: Ennis, Ella

Position: UNF

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
And Members of the
Education, Health and Environment Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: SB 85 – Establish Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs – OPPOSED

Dear Senator Pinsky and Committee Members,

I do not think it is appropriate to establish an Office of Immigrant Affairs in the Office of the Governor to assist illegal immigrants with immigration status and to assist them with employment and business opportunities at the expense of Maryland citizens. Many United States and legal Maryland residents could use help with gaining skills and finding jobs but there is no special Office for them in the Governor's Office. This legislation, no matter how well intended, is a slap in the face of legal immigrants and Maryland citizens.

I support legal immigration in numbers that we, as a country, can accommodate. I do not support encouraging more people to migrate to the United States illegally. I agree that most illegal immigrants come to the United States to build a better economic life. However, we are in the middle of a pandemic. Our economy is hurting. Adding an additional state budget item of \$400,000 annually is unacceptable. Maryland citizens and taxpayers are spending billions of dollars each year to educate and pay for health care for illegal immigrants living in Maryland. Establishing an Office of Immigrant Affairs and providing the services called for in SB 85 will encourage additional illegal immigration.

Other legislation calls for Maryland and all of its jurisdictions to refuse to cooperate with ICE efforts to deport, even violent criminals who are here illegally. We need cooperation not obstruction and we need genuine Federal immigration reform not abandonment.

Please give SB 85 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
P.O. Box 437
Port Republic, MD 20676
E-mail: eee437@comcast.net

Testimony In Opposition to SB-85.pdf

Uploaded by: Harris, HESSIE

Position: UNF

Hessie L. Harris

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB-85
(CREATION OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS)**

My testimony is in opposition to SB-85. First, what will be the cost of these services which the taxpayers will pay for but not be able to avail themselves of? Also would not such office attract other non-citizens to the state which would naturally increase the cost?

Second, is not this bill a duplicative effort? The services listed are already being provided to non-citizens. In Montgomery County, many of them are filtered through CASA of Maryland and non-profits but financed by the County.

Not only are non-citizens assisted in "matters related to immigration", Montgomery County provides funds for attorneys to handle deportation cases. That is a service not provided for taxpayers in civil cases which a deportation case is.

Third, Section 9-3033 of the bill provides employment information and referrals to non-citizens which puts them in direct competition with tax paying citizens for resources and jobs. In the existing economic situation in this state and nationally, it is highly inequitable to ask taxpayers to pay for employment services they cannot use.

Fourth, there is concern about the involvement the proposed office has with the police. The language is far too expansive and requires specificity to make sure the neither the office staff nor the non-citizen gets the impression the office has been deputized by the Police.

Finally, there is the language regarding enhancing civic engagement by the non-citizen. It should be made clear that the non-citizen does not have the right to run for office or vote.

SB0085 vmcavoy Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: mcavoy, vince

Position: UNF

UNfavorable SB0085

Vince McAvoy po box 41075 baltimore md

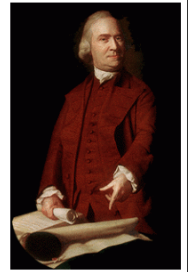
"..It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation, enlightened as it is, if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of false & designing men."

- Samuel Adams

The liberties of our Country, the freedom of our civil constitution are worth defending at all hazards: And it is our duty to defend them against all attacks.

We have receiv'd them as a fair Inheritance from our worthy Ancestors: They purchas'd them for us with toil and danger and expence of treasure and blood; and transmitted them to us with care and diligence.

It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation, enlightened as it is, if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle; or be cheated out of them by the artifices of false and designing men.



Dear Senator Pinsky & Committee,

On the day of the bill hearing for the cross-file, I saw testimony from a legal, naturalized citizen of Rockville speak against this bill. Each year that immigration bills arrive in Annapolis, I am struck by the amount of **legally-immigrated** Asians, Hispanics & others who speak against such bills. I, too, am against this bill.

" (III) IS ENTITLED TO THE SALARY PROVIDED IN THE STATE"

HB15 <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/bills/hb/hb0015f.pdf>

This bill proposes a fiscal expense as Marylanders are starving.

Montgomery County residents are lining up at food banks for food.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTixoTWIuAc>

"...Feeding America, the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States, originally estimated the number of people experiencing food insecurity in the United States would swell to 50 million by the end of the year."

<https://patch.com/maryland/bethesda-chevy Chase/how-new-executive-orders-will-help-hungry-montgomery-co>

This is an issue of defining where Marylanders & Americans & patriots stand when the state & the country is in crisis. And, at that, a man-made crisis. A governor having the nerve to declare **working** Marylanders as "non-essential".... truly troubled times.

"...IS NOT A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES ; AND

WHOSE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IS A COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES."

HB15 <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/bills/hb/hb0015f.pdf>

The law is being skirted by the sponsor's district.

And bills, such as this one, which aim to circumvent immigration laws & immigration facts DO

harm to Maryland residents. This bill & others like it from that district harm

Marylanders whether they were born in Maryland or - in the case of Cheng Tu - legally naturalized as an American citizen.

(C) NOTWITHSTANDING § 5-104(E)(2) OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE, A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT... MAY NOT: (3) REQUIRE AN INDIVIDUAL TO PROVE THE INDIVIDUAL'S CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION STATUS;

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/bills/hb/hb0304f.pdf>

Bill proponents of this/other District's bills often claim that Maryland must not interact with ICE or become embroiled in federal immigration efforts.

Yet bill proponents, the sponsor of this bill as well as the proponents from other Districts now claim that Maryland must get involved with immigration efforts?

The stance is disingenuous. Their stance is rife with falsehood & lies. And it is clear

to all discerning where lies emanate from.

“MMA focuses on two broad priority areas: economic growth and community well-being”

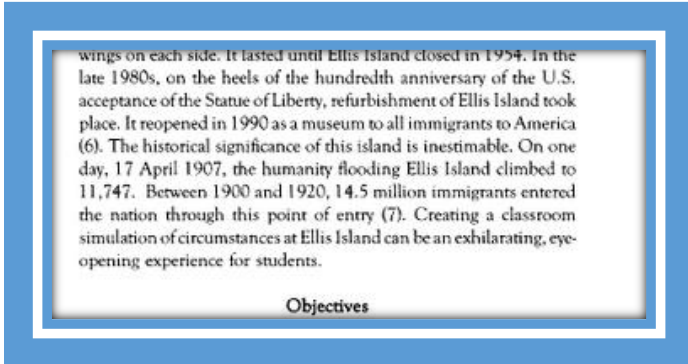
<https://mima.baltimorecity.gov/>

I urge you to strike down this bill because, as Delegate Bridges stated, **this is a duplicative bill.**

<https://catholicreview.org/baltimore-mayor-parish-ids-will-be-valid-for-city-identification/>

(I've actually been to this church; they had a wonderful Sunday afternoon service, much singing.)

There are already enormous resources for immigrant communities in Maryland (and in Baltimore).



<https://www.jstor.org/stable/25163308?seq=1>

I also say that since Maryland's influx of immigrants is roughly twice the national average, that you should review this from the perspective of other immigrant waves which our country has experienced.

The reason that immigrants may not be receiving the benefits & resources as Ellis Island immigrants did is because this immigration is happening in a haphazard, undisciplined manner.

This lack of discipline is what is causing strife, harming children & tying up resources for legal American & Maryland residents. This bill is clearly not needed if we just slow down.

“Masking, isolation, business closures, shuttered churches, ended normal school classes, seniors confined secluded in nursing homes, people left to die alone in hospitals, sporting events ended, music silenced, jobs and livelihoods destroyed... Many people have lost everything and now face losing their country.

The level of despair is palpable. Growing numbers have lost the ability to cope.”

<https://www.aier.org/article/despairs-america-the-astonishing-psychological-cost-of-lockdown/>

<https://www.aier.org/article/death-by-lockdown/>

To date, we Marylanders are experiencing the most devastating societal, economic & spiritual attack EVER on the state of Maryland.

Those who vote for such bills in a time of COVID crisis –
where Maryland lawmakers did NOT adequately help Marylanders who lost their jobs,
did NOT timely pay unemployment benefits,
did NOT in ANY REAL WAY stop the overreach of the Executive branches in Maryland (from Governor to CoExec's to mayors) –
show allegiance not to Maryland residents but to globalism.

I urge you to spend every last minute of your time this Session un-doing the madness caused by a flu which has a 99.97% recovery rate. That is, ignore public health models proven wrong time and time and time again; get Maryland's economy fully back on track; and stop spending on legislation that is duplicative & harmful (especially such bills for non-Americans).

Thanks for your time !
humbly
~vince

SB 85 .pdf

Uploaded by: MULLICAN, Brigitta

Position: UNF

My name is Brigitta Mullican Rockville, Maryland, LD-17 – Feb. 5, 2018

My reasons to oppose SB 85, Create a Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, are:

1. Why should we provide taxpayer's assistance to illegal aliens when we have a need to help legal immigrants and American citizens?
2. Illegal aliens have broken Federal laws to come here. My parents immigrated following all the requirements with waiting, having good health and being sponsored. My father had to show he had a profession so he could be employed. If my parents were unable to make it here financially, the sponsor was responsible to pay for our return to Germany. There also was a quota to how many people could immigrate to the US, Canada or Australia from Germany. There needs to be a control on how many immigrants are allowed. There is a big financial burden with illegal immigration.
3. The US has laws that the Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement are required to follow. We are a land of law and order and need to control immigration laws. Maryland should respect the Federal laws.
4. When immigration laws are not enforced it attracts more illegal immigrants. This results in higher costs of living, reduced job availability, lower wages, overcrowded public schools and higher crime rates. Maryland citizens should not bear the cost of illegal immigration.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic has already strained state resources dramatically: Maryland cannot afford new offices and programs that do not directly benefit Marylanders.

Please do not approve SB 85 to Create a Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

SB 85 .pdf

Uploaded by: MULLICAN, Brigitta

Position: UNF

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Please do not approve SB 85 to Create a Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

SB 85.pdf

Uploaded by: Paul, Ellen

Position: UNF

SB 85 -- Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Oppose

February 9, 2021 hearing

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

I oppose this because Maryland should not institute more policies to direct resources to illegal aliens. This will become a magnet for more illegal immigration to Maryland which results in higher costs of living, reduced job availability, lower wages, and higher crime rates. Our state resources are already strained by Covid; Maryland cannot afford new offices and programs that do not directly benefit Marylanders.

Ellen Paul

Montgomery County, MD

Maryland Testimony Opposing SB 85 - Office of Immi

Uploaded by: Rendall, Shari

Position: UNF

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*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.



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky 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 a 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 immigration 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 Senate Bill (SB) 85. 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 SB 85.

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 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

SB85 Testmony Against.pdf

Uploaded by: Tu, Chengbiao

Position: UNF

Feb 5th, 2021

Mr. Chairman and respectful committee members,

My name is Cheng Tu and I am a legal immigrant and US citizen residing in Rockville.

I am here to **testify against SB15** based on two reasons.

First, immigration matter is federal government's responsibility. I immigrated to the U.S. legally and had no particular issues needing Maryland government involvement. Creating such office will complicated situation to the immigrant population the office supposed to serve. It only means immigrants will pay for money to lawyers and further complicate a complex issue.

Maryland already in fiscal crisis and I can't understand why you want to waste my tax dollars to create more non value-add government jobs. As a result, you will continue to push tax paying population out of Maryland.

I am AGAINST this bill.

Thank you!

Cheng Tu

SB 085 Written:Oral Testimony 2_9_2021.pdf

Uploaded by: Waychoff, Amy

Position: UNF

Amy Waychoff
SB085
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Opposed

February 9, 2021

My name is Amy Waychoff, and I have lived in Montgomery County for over 33 years. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on SB085. This legislation would set up a Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs that would administer a costly "network of neighborhood-based opportunity centers" to provide immigration services to illegal and legal aliens. It is clear from the language of the bill that the main focus of the advocacy provided by this office would be for illegal aliens. Setting up such an office would be just one more example of the Maryland legislature's attempt to make the state a magnet for more illegal aliens. The more free services provided for illegal aliens, the greater the incentive for illegal aliens to make Maryland their home. This in turn results in higher costs of living, reduced job availability, lower wages, and higher crime rates. These costs, both in terms of the economy and increased crime, would be borne by MD citizens. Most of the services proposed for the Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs are not being offered to citizens of the state as a whole, so providing them to illegal aliens is unfair. Therefore, I strongly oppose SB085 and recommend an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Amy Waychoff
4511 Amherst Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
LD 18
waychoff@comcast.net