

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,
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