



Peter Franchot  
*Comptroller*

## 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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