

Amy Waychoff
SB 317
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Opposed

January 27, 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 SB 317. This bill would set up a *full-time taxpayer-funded* office to provide legal representation to illegal aliens facing deportation. This legislation is in direct contravention to federal law, which only allows illegal aliens to retain counsel at their own expense or pro bono. While federal law provides legal representation for criminal prosecutions, deportation is a civil administrative procedure. This bill is therefore unfair to citizens and legal immigrants who must pay out of pocket for civil legal issues such as foreclosure and eviction proceedings.

In a time of budget cutting during the pandemic, it is astounding that the Maryland legislature would even consider this outlay on behalf of illegal aliens. Additional costs in this bill would be incurred due to the requirement for extensive educational efforts to make sure illegal aliens know that this free legal aid is available to them. Illegal aliens residing in Maryland who are in another state when facing deportation will also receive this financial aid. The legislation even provides “a stipend to a designated community group to facilitate coordination between out-of-state legal representation and the covered individual’s family members!” In conclusion, SB 317 is an affront to the rights and pocketbooks of Maryland citizens and legal residents.

Sincerely,

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