



## **ORHoCo Testimony on Universal Representation – SB317**

Dear Maryland State Delegation,

We are presenting this testimony on behalf of Our Revolution Howard County (ORHoCo), the county chapter of an organization inspired by the political and social messages of Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). We fight for values and policies covering climate-change, health care, and economic and racial justice that focus on the needs of our neighbors, co-workers, and working families, particularly in this time of Covid.

Along with our 20+ partners represented by the Howard County Coalition for Immigrant Justice, we stand in support of Universal Representation, SB317, which will provide legal representation to people in immigration detention in Maryland and Maryland residents detained in other states.

Currently many people facing deportation cases are representing themselves, and we believe this violates not only due process but hurts immigrant communities and their families, let alone damaging local economies. Currently, Prince George's County and Baltimore City have developed universal representation policies that have transformed the rights and lives of immigrants and their families facing deportation.

We believe it is time for the state of Maryland to join them. Please support the Universal Representation SB17 bill as written.

Thank you.

- Kathleen Uy, ORHoCo steering committee member and representative to HCCIJ
- Paul J. Baicich, ORHoCo Chair

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