

HB 750 – Office of the Attorney General – Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings

Oppose

Testimony for 3/3/2021 House Judiciary Committee

I oppose this bill because illegal aliens should not be provided taxpayer-funded legal representation. The law provides legal representation for criminal prosecutions only. Most immigration proceedings, including removal proceedings, are civil and do not trigger free representation. The Supreme Court has ruled that deportation is not a punishment, but rather a civil administrative procedure where an illegal alien is returned to their homeland.

Providing taxpayer-funded legal representation is unfair because it is unavailable to legal aliens or citizens who are required to pay out of their own pockets for their own civil legal proceedings.

Maryland does not have enough money to provide basically blank checks for legal representation to all illegal aliens who might want it. The Maryland budget is tight enough in these pandemic days.

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