

Amy Waychoff  
HB 304  
House Judiciary Committee  
Opposed

March 3, 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 HB 304. This bill would turn Maryland into one of the most egregious sanctuary states in the country. This bill would prevent cooperation and information-sharing between local officials and federal immigration authorities. One of the lessons of 9/11 was the detrimental effect this lack of cooperation has on national security. A number of the hijackers were illegal aliens who had subverted our immigration laws.

HB 304 would prohibit agreements such as the 287g program, which provides a safe method of detaining *criminal* illegal aliens in local jails until ICE officers can secure the individuals for deportation. Sanctuary policies conflict with federal law, including the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. Sanctuary policies also insult legal immigrants who respect our laws and patiently waited for years and paid thousands of dollars to come to the United States the right way. Finally, states that implement sanctuary policies become a magnet for more illegal immigration, which in turn results in higher costs of living, reduced job availability, lower wages, and higher crime costs.

In the summer of 2019, shortly after Montgomery County expanded its sanctuary policies, a series of heinous sex crimes perpetrated by illegal aliens against women and children shocked the nation. All of these crimes were 100 percent preventable. Time and time again, criminal illegal aliens are released back into the public instead of handed over

to ICE. Once free, these criminals continue to commit crimes. Not surprisingly, most of these new crimes are perpetrated back in the communities in which these illegal aliens reside, *immigrant* communities. The only beneficiaries of these laws are the criminals. The number one priority of government is to keep its citizens safe. HB 304 would do just the opposite. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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