



Virginia Rodino, Chair  
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**SB 317 — SUPPORT**  
**Universal Representation**

February 29, 2021

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Chapter of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, strongly supports Universal Representation SB 317. We are part of the national Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) which is the first and only national organization of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) workers and our allies advancing worker, immigrant and civil rights. Among other broad efforts, APALA works to defend and advocate for the civil and human rights of AAPIs, immigrants and all people of color.

Our racial and immigrant justice work currently focuses on opposing policies designed targeting, silencing, and oppressing our community members. We fight to protect family unity by defending family immigration and supporting comprehensive immigration reform.

Being part of immigrant communities ourselves, we know how important education of our rights and protection of those legal rights is. Therefore, we believe all detained immigrants should be provided with free legal representation. This will dramatically increase that chance that they are released and can be reunified with their families and loved ones.

We urge the passage of Universal Representation so that all rights are protected, particularly the most vulnerable of our families, friends, neighbors and community members. APALA MD urges you to support SB 317.

Thank you,  
Virginia Rodino  
Chair, APALA MD