

March 3, 2021

To: Chairman Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Fr: Sandy Tuttle, Montgomery County, Maryland

Date: March 3, 2021

Re: HB 304- strongly oppose: State and Local Government – Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement – **written testimony for the record.**

Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Committee, my name is Sandy Tuttle, and I am a long time resident of Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing to you in strong opposition to HB 304, which if became law, would undermine the safety of all Marylanders, through tying the hands of law enforcement by preventing any cooperation with the Federal Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE).

Several years ago, the Montgomery County Council ‘threw out the welcome mat,’ to people who were here illegally, by becoming a ‘sanctuary jurisdiction,’ which does not cooperate with ICE. As someone who had immigrated legally from another country and had to go through the immigration process, this was a shock to me. Not only has the County Council, essentially been giving ‘..a wink and a nod, , to those who are here illegally, but more disturbingly, it is/has been protecting those who are here illegally and have committed crimes.

It really came as no surprise, when a few years later, the Montgomery County Council, noted a significant uptick in crime. Recently, our own Chief of Police Chief Marcus Jones noted what he called “ a ‘disturbing trend,’ of increasing homicides and other gang related crimes in our county, including MS-13. This is no surprise given that our sanctuary jurisdiction seems to side with the criminal who is here illegally and in essence, is promoting more lawlessness, by allowing Montgomery County to be a “sanctuary jurisdiction.’

As a taxpayer, there is the expectation that our hard earned tax dollars paid to local and state governments are to provide for public safety. This bill undermines the integrity of not only our laws, but law enforcement as well This is wrong!

Further, this legislation clearly violates federal law. The 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act bars state and local governments from prohibiting employees from providing, receiving or sharing information on illegal aliens with federal government immigration officials. Yet this bill seeks to ignore federal law.

In sum, this bill is short sighted, compromising everyone’s safety, and I respectfully request you to opposed HB 304.