

STATEMENT BY BRAD BOTWIN, DIRECTOR, HELP SAVE MARYLAND.ORG

BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HB16 “DIGNITY NOT DETENTION – BANNING USE OF PRIVATE DETENTION FACILITIES FOR ILLEGALS”

MY NAME IS BRAD BOTWIN AND I’M THE DIRECTOR OF HELP SAVE MARYLAND.ORG, A STATE-WIDE, 501(C)3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH EDUCATES MARYLAND CITIZENS (INCLUDING OUR LEGISLATORS) ON THE FINANCIAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

I’M HERE TODAY TO EXPRESS MY SERIOUS CONCERNS WITH HB16, A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED BILL PROMOTING LAWLESSNESS AND STATE SANCTUARY, INTRODUCED FOR THE SOLE BENEFIT OF MARYLAND’S GROWING ILLEGAL ALIEN POPULATION AND THEIR LOCAL ENABLERS.

CLEARLY THE ONLY REASON FOR THIS BILL IS TO STOP LAW ENFORCEMENT (STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, SHERIFFS AND THEIR OFFICERS/EMPLOYEES) FROM USING PRIVATE DETENTION FACILITIES TO HOLD ILLEGAL ALIEN CRIMINALS. THE BILL HIGHLIGHTS THAT:

STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, SHERIFFS, AND THEIR OFFICERS/EMPLOYEES ARE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING INTO AGREEMENTS WITH PRIVATE DETENTION FACILITIES.

STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, SHERIFFS, AND THEIR OFFICERS/EMPLOYEES ARE PROHIBITED FROM PAYING ANY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH A PRIVATE DETENTION FACILITY.

STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, SHERIFFS, AND THEIR OFFICERS/EMPLOYEES ARE PROHIBITED FROM RECEIVING ANY PAYMENTS FROM A PRIVATE DETENTION FACILITY.

STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, SHERIFFS, AND THEIR OFFICERS/EMPLOYEES MAY NOT APPROVE ZONING VARIANCES OR PERMITS FOR A PRIVATE DETENTION FACILITY UNLESS THEY PROVIDE 180 DAYS BEFORE AUTHORIZING THE ZONING VARIANCE OR PERMIT AND ALLOWS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL.

ALL EXISTING IMMIGRATION DETENTION AGREEMENTS MUST BE TERMINATED BY OCTOBER 1, 2022.

WHAT CITIZENS' GROUPS ACTUALLY ASKED YOU TO INTERVENE IN THIS ALLEGED PROBLEM? BESIDES OF COURSE THE USUAL SUSPECTS - - CASA OF MARYLAND, CAIR, AND THE ACLU?

THESE ARE THE FACTS:

PRIVATE IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITIES GENERALLY MEET HIGHER STANDARDS THAN LOCAL JAILS OR PRISONS.

IF ILLEGAL ALIENS CANNOT BE DETAINED IN PRIVATE FACILITIES IN MARYLAND, THEY WILL JUST BE HELD IN OTHER STATES, FURTHER FROM THEIR LAWYERS AND ANY FAMILY.

PRIVATE DETENTION FACILITIES PROVIDE JOBS AND A FEDERAL INCOME STREAM TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES THAT WANT THEM. ADOPTING A "ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL" POLICY STATEWIDE WOULD TAKE THAT AWAY FROM THOSE COMMUNITIES.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT MARYLAND CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY BLACK AND LEGAL IMMIGRANTS, ARE SAFER WHEN WE REMOVE CRIMINAL ILLEGAL ALIENS FROM OUR STREETS AND COMMUNITIES. LESS PLACES AVAILABLE TO LOCK UP CRIMINALS IS BAD PUBLIC POLICY.

THIS BILL DOES NOTHING BUT INTERFERE WITH IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS DOING THEIR JOBS. FORCING ICE TO DRIVE ILLEGAL ALIEN CRIMINALS OUT OF STATE BECAUSE MARYLAND LAWMAKERS WANT TO "MAKE NICE" WITH CRIMINALS AND THEIR HANDLERS IS SHOCKING PUBLIC POLICY.

MARYLAND LAWMAKERS SHOULD FOCUS ON ENHANCING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL MARYLAND RESIDENTS, AND NOT WORRY ABOUT THE 'DIGNITY' OF THOSE ILLEGALLY IN OUR COUNTRY WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES AND ARE SET FOR DEPORTATION.

AS I SEE IT, LEGISLATORS WHO PROMOTE OR SPONSOR BILLS LIKE HB16 SEEMINGLY HAVE NO "DIGNITY" NOR RESPECT FOR THEIR JOBS.

JEOPARDIZING THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF MARYLAND CITIZENS, SIMILAR TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SANCTUARY CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY, IS JUST WRONG.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I REQUEST THIS COMMITTEE TABLE HB16 AND INSTEAD WORK ACROSS THE AISLE TO PROMOTE MARYLAND'S ECONOMY AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CITIZENS AND LEGAL IMMIGRANTS. ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE STEALING OUR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND OVERWHELMING OUR PUBLIC-SCHOOL SYSTEMS.

SHAME ON THIS COMMITTEE FOR EVEN DISCUSSING A BILL LIKE HB16 DURING OUR SHARED COVID 19 ECONOMIC AND HEALTH CRISIS.

UNCONTESTED ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, AND LEGISLATORS THAT ALLOW IT TO HAPPEN, IS THE PROBLEM IN MARYLAND, NOT PRIVATE DETENTION FACILITIES THAT HOLD WANTED CRIMINAL ALIENS.

THANK YOU.

BRAD BOTWIN, DIRECTOR

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