

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**HB750 "OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL – RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN  
IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS COORDINATOR"**

**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 HB750, A POLITICIALLY MOTIVATED BILL PROMOTING LAWLESSNESS AND STATE SANCTUARY, INTRODUCED FOR THE SOLE BENEFIT OF MARYLAND'S GROWING ILLEGAL ALIEN POPULATION AND THEIR LOCAL ENABLERS.**

**HB 750 - Office of the Attorney General - Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings Coordinator**

**Citizens pay the legal bills of illegal aliens trying to stay in the U.S.**

- **Creates a coordinator in the Attorney General's Office for a right to counsel in immigration proceedings.**
- **The role of the coordinator is to organize services and resources in order to provide legal representation to individuals detained in Maryland or who are Maryland residents detained in another state and are subject to removal from the United States.**
- **If the individual is a Maryland resident who is detained outside the state and the coordinator cannot get them legal representation, then the coordinator shall give this individual a stipend to subsidize their legal representation costs.**
- **The legal representation goes until there is a final judgment by the Board of Immigration Appeals and all other legal matters affecting relief such as family court proceedings and habeas petitions have final judgments.**
- **The coordinator must also designate community groups to educate individuals and families impacted by immigration detention by hosting "know-your-rights" workshops, distributing written information, assisting communities in the formation and maintenance of neighborhood defense committees and any other activity to inform individuals about their rights.**

- **If a local jurisdiction provides legal representation to individuals in deportation proceedings, the coordinator shall direct the funding that would have gone to the individual's representation to the jurisdiction.**

**Talking Points Opposing HB 750**

- **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 whereby 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.**
- **Providing taxpayer-funded legal representation to illegal aliens further strains the state's limited financial resources in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Providing legal representation to illegal aliens frustrates federal law which expressly prohibits the federal government from funding illegal aliens in removal proceedings. Aliens who wish to be represented by legal counsel are free to do so, but federal law requires that it must be offered at no cost to the government.**

**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 HB750 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 HB750 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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