

HB 304 State and Local Government – Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

Oppose

Testimony for 3/3/2021 House Judiciary Committee

I oppose this bill because it prevents law enforcement officers from asking about citizenship or immigration status during a stop, search, or arrest. It also prevents transfers of individuals to federal immigration officers without a judicial warrant, which is a nearly impossible standard to meet on short notice. A judicial warrant almost requires proving a case first before a suspect can be transferred.

Police should be able to notify federal immigration officers of an individual's location/address without a judicial warrant. Prohibiting communication with federal immigration officials is dangerous to the public because, as we have seen in Montgomery County, our jails often release illegal alien criminals who later have to be found by immigration officials putting the community at greater risk.

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