



SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL
1410 Bush Street, Suite F, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 750**
Office of the Attorney General – Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings
Coordinator (Universal Representation Act)

House Judiciary Committee

March 3, 2021

1:30 PM

Presented to: Luke Clippinger, Chairman
By: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council urges a **Favorable Report to HB 750.**

SEIU is the largest union in North America. We unite workers in health care, public service, including public education, and property services to improve lives and the services we provide. We represent over 50,000 workers in the Maryland/DC/Virginia region. Many of our members are recent immigrants and live in communities of immigrants. Ever since our union was chartered 100 years ago, we have defended immigrant workers and demanded they be treated with dignity.

According to the Fiscal Note, “400 Marylanders face removal while in detention every year and that at least 70% of detained Marylanders are unable to access counsel in immigration proceedings.” Think of the impact that has on those 400 Maryland families and their communities.

Studies has shown that if those 400 had legal representation during these proceedings, a significant percentage would not be removed and the impact on hundreds of Maryland families would be less traumatic. What are the benefits of that? That is not something that is easily calculated on placed in a Fiscal Note. What is the value of a mother or a father to a child?

It is well passed time to pass comprehensive, common-sense immigration reform at the federal level, but we can contribute to a better way by taking action in Maryland.

We ask a Favorable Report on HB 750. Thank you.

