

SB0088 cross-filed with HB0304 State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

Stance: Support

Testimony: My name is Adiena C. Britt and I reside in the 45th Legislative District of Baltimore City. I am writing to offer my support for both SB0088 and HB0304 which shields Local and State Law Enforcement from any actions for not participating with ICE. The immigrant community in our State is forced to live under a constant state of terror and are being forced into the shadows. Immigrants are less likely to report crimes committed against them, for fear that their immigration status will come up and they will be placed into deportation proceedings. Domestic Violence, robberies, assaults, and worse go unreported due to the fear of deportation. This causes the immigrant community to be prime targets for crime because perpetrators know they most likely will not call the police.

Our immigrant community deserves the same protections as any person walking down the street without fear of repercussions. Federal Immigration Enforcement should not be able to utilize reporting of victims against them in order to make attempts at deportation when they've committed no crime. I don't feel that coming to the United States to work should be a crime, and our immigration system as it is set up is primary an extortion scheme. People who are poor or of modest means cannot afford the exorbitant fees exacted during the "legal" immigration process. Our Country also extracts a massive amount of sweat equity from immigrants in the form of low-wage labor that is not currently paid back in kind. No credit is given to this community, and on top of all of this, they are forced to live in the shadows of our society for fear of deportation.

This bill being passed onto the Full Senate and House for consideration and passed into law will be ONE step in the right direction towards immigration reform. As little as the step is, it still needs to be taken.

Thank you.

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