

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**HB304 "STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT – PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL
IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT"**

MARCH 3, 2021

"Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfills the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things."

- Sir Winston Churchill

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 SB88, A SEEMINGLY RACIST, POLITICALLY MOTIVATED BILL PROMOTING STATE SANCTUARY, INTRODUCED FOR THE SOLE BENEFIT OF MARYLAND'S GROWING ILLEGAL ALIEN POPULATION AND THEIR LOCAL ENABLERS. THIS IS THE 8TH TIME SINCE 2014 THAT THIS ELECTED BODY HAS SUBJECTED THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND TO THIS UNNECESSARY, AND IF IMPLEMENTED, QUITE DANGEROUS LEGISLATION.

HB304 WILL INTERFERE WITH FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TO REMOVE ILLEGAL ALIEN CRIMINALS FROM OUR JAILS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, COURTHOUSES AND MOST IMPORTANTLY OUR COMMUNITIES. SPECIFICALLY, THE BILL WILL:

- PROHIBIT STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM HONORING ALL U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) DETAINER REQUESTS FOR ANY ILLEGAL ALIEN OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE FROM CUSTODY.

-ALLOW ILLEGALS TO USE ID NOT NORMALLY ACCEPTABLE IN MOST APPLICATIONS WITHOUT BEING SUBJECT TO FURTHER SCRUTINY.

- PROHIBIT STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM ASKING ABOUT THE IMMIGRATION STATUS OR PLACE OF BIRTH OF ANY ARRESTED INDIVIDUAL, OR STOPPING, ARRESTING, SEARCHING OR DETAINING AN INDIVIDUAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS OR EXECUTING ICE WARRANTS.

-REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND COURTHOUSES TO LIMIT FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES ON THEIR PREMISES.

-REQUIRE MARYLAND COUNTIES (FREDERICK, CECIL AND HARFORD) THAT ARE PARTNERED WITH ICE THROUGH THE FEDERAL 287G PROGRAM TO END THEIR SUCCESSFUL FORCE-MULTIPLIER LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LAWLESS SECTIONS OF HB304. WE, AS TAXPAYING CITIZENS, ARE AT A LOSS AS TO HOW PASSAGE OF THIS BILL WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL MARYLAND RESIDENTS?

AS WE HAVE SEEN IN OTHER SANCTUARY JURISDICTIONS NATION-WIDE, SUCH AS THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND EVEN OUR OWN BALTIMORE CITY, REFUSAL TO ALLOW STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO COOPERATE WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) DOES LITTLE TO HELP THOSE HERE ILLEGALLY (NOT COMMITTING CRIMES).

INSTEAD, SANCTUARY JURISDICTIONS ENDANGER LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS AND LEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE SUBJECT TO INCREASED LEVELS OF CRIME, MURDER, RAPE, DRUGS, PROSTITUTION, AND MS-13 GANG VIOLENCE BY BRAZEN, OFTEN REPEAT, OFFENDERS WELL AWARE THAT SANCTUARY STATUS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD FOR THEIR ALIEN CRIMINAL STATUS.

MY OWN JURISDICTION, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND, IS ANOTHER PERFECT EXAMPLE OF SANCTUARY POLICY GONE WRONG. IN 2019, THERE WERE HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS AND RAPES IN THE COUNTY, A MASSIVE INCREASE OVER 2018, MANY COMMITTED BY ILLEGAL ALIENS. ALIENS THAT IN MOST CASES WERE KNOWN TO COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS. I'M SURE THIS COMMITTEE IS WELL AWARE OF THE CARNAGE THAT TOOK PLACE IN MONTGOMEY LATE SUMMER 2019 WHERE NO LESS THAN 10 YOUNG GIRLS, 15 AND UNDER, WERE ASSAULTED AND RAPED IN A THREE MONTH PERIOD BY THESE LAW-BREAKING ALIENS.

OUR COUNTY OFFICIALS ACTUALLY PUBLICALLY DEFENDED THESE ALIENS AND SANCTUARY (ARM AND ARM WITH GROUPS LIKE CASA OF MARYLAND AND IDENTITY INC.) AND THUS THEIR HORRIFIC CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN. MONTGOMERY COUNTY STILL REFUSES ENHANCED COOPERATION WITH ICE.

I AM PROUD TO SAY HELP SAVE MARYLAND AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ALONG WITH MANY HUNDREDS OF CONCERNED LOCAL CITIZENS PROTESTED THESE NEEDLESS RAPES AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARK ELRICH'S PITIFUL OFFER OF RAPE COUNSELING FOR THESE

UNDERAGE VICTIMS. FEMALE VICTIMS THAT WERE, IN FACT, PRIMARILY HISPANIC IMMIGRANTS TO OUR COUNTY.

ARE THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE PREPARED FOR THE SAME HORRIBLE OUTCOMES AND THE SAME CITIZEN PROTESTS AND MORE FROM YOUR CONSTITUTENTS ACROSS THE STATE? EVEN NOW, CITIZENS IN HOWARD COUNTY ARE RISING UP AGAINST THE SANCTUARY THAT WAS RECENTLY FORCED UPON THEM BY THEIR ENLIGHTENED AND QUITE LAWLESS HOWARD COUNCILMEMBERS AND EXECUTIVE. EXPECT TO SEE THE HOWARD SANCTUARY ON THE BALLOT IN 2022.

AND IF YOU CHALLENGE THE WILL OF MARYLAND CITIZENS OPPOSED TO SANCTUARY, EXPECT TO SEE HB304, SHOULD IT BECOME LAW, ON THE MARYLAND BALLOT IN 2022!

YEAR AFTER YEAR, I FIND MYSELF REMINDING THIS COMMITTEE THAT CITIZENS AND LEGAL IMMIGRANTS, RATHER THAN ILLEGAL ALIENS, ARE YOUR CONSTITUENTS. I ALSO CONTINUE TO BE SHOCKED THAT OUR LEGISLATORS REPRESENTING MARYLAND'S BLACK COMMUNITIES READILY CO-SPONSOR TOXIC LEGISLATION LIKE HB304. THE BRUNT OF THE CRIME, DECLINE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTHCARE, AND THE LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FALLS MOST HEAVILY ON YOUR BLACK (AND LEGAL HISPANIC) CONSTITUENTS. THE "OUTSTANDING" SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN BALTIMORE AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ARE A TESTIMENT TO THE PRIORITIES OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS.

THIS BILL HAS THE IMPRIMATUR OF CASA OF MARYLAND, THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU), THE ACLU AND OTHER ANTI-CITIZEN GROUPS. AMNESTY AND SANCTUARY ARE NOT PRIORITIES FOR MARYLAND CITIZENS, STRUGGLING WITH COVID 19 AND HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.

WHY IS THIS BILL A BAD IDEA FOR MARYLAND?

CREATES AN UNWANTED SAFE HAVEN - OTHER STATES AND CITIES THAT HAVE SIMILAR LAWS IN PLACE HAVE BECOME MAJOR MAGNETS FOR INCREASED ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, CRIME, PROSTITUTION, AND DRUG TRAFFICKING. MORE ILLEGAL ALIENS = MORE K-12 EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL WELFARE COSTS WHICH RESULTS IN A DECLINING STANDARD OF LIVING FOR MARYLANDERS. OUR OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE IN MARYLAND IS ALREADY ON THE DECLINE DUE TO HIGH TAXES, DEBT, ERODING SERVICES AND COVID 19 UNEMPLOYMENT. HOW MANY MORE MARYLANDERS HAVE TO LEAVE THE STATE BEFORE ANNAPOLIS GETS THE MESSAGE?

WASTE OF TAX DOLLARS - LAST TIME I CHECKED MARYLAND WAS STILL PART OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS BILL WILL FORCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO EXPEND MANPOWER AND TAX DOLLARS TO TRACK DOWN AND ARREST DEPORTABLE CRIMINALS ALREADY ARRESTED

AND HELD IN MARYLAND JAILS. AT THE END OF THE DAY WE ALL PAY THE TAX TAB FOR THIS IF IT BECOMES LAW.

UNDERMINES TRUST BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND "IMMIGRANTS" - WE HAVE HEARD A LOT OF NONSENSE FROM CASA AND THE ACLU, AND THE LAWLESS MONTOMERY, PRINCE GEORGE'S AND BALTIMORE CITY OFFICIALS THAT ILLEGAL ALIENS WON'T REPORT CRIMES IF POLICE WORK WITH ICE. THE FACTS ARE THAT POLICE DO NOT INQUIRE ABOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS OF WITNESSES OR VICTIMS OF CRIME. ALL CITIZENS, LEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND YES EVEN ILLEGAL ALIENS, DESERVE TO BE SAFE FROM CRIMINALS WANTED BY ICE.

LEGISLATORS WHO PROMOTE OR SPONSOR BILLS LIKE HB304 DESERVE OUR DISDAIN RATHER THAN OUR RESPECT OR VOTES. JEOPARDIZING THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF MARYLAND CITIZENS, SIMILAR TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SANCTUARY CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY IS JUST WRONG. WE SHOULD BE STRENGTHENING RATHER THEN CUTTING TIES WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I REQUEST THIS COMMITTEE TABLE HB304 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. UNCONTESTED ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS THE PROBLEM IN MARYLAND, NOT FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT DEPORTATION ACTIVITIES OF WANTED CRIMINAL ALIENS.

THANK YOU.

BRAD BOTWIN, DIRECTOR

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