



TESTIMONY FOR HB0304
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT – PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Fisher, W.

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0304 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Trust. In policing, trust is critically important in preventing and solving crime. We, as a state, have recognized the fact that we cannot have trust in police if they are also involved in deportation. Deportation is the purview of ICE.

As far as our state and local police, their mandate is to interact with residents in a manner that supports the laws of the state. That does not include asking any residents questions about their immigration status, country of origin, or nationality when they are stopped. What status a person has regarding immigration has no bearing on the laws that Maryland police and correctional officers are required to uphold. A person who is undocumented has committed a civil offense.

Likewise, officers should not be forced to provide information to ICE that will be used to help build a registry. This distracts the police from the job that we, as residents and taxpayers, are paying them to do. It also means that they have less time to do the job that we are paying them to do.

We must decouple this process whereby state and local police use their time and resources to do the job that federal enforcement officers are paid to do.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.