



Indivisible: Central Maryland

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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0304 - State and Local Government – Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Fisher

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Central Maryland

Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, advocate

Position: FAVORABLE

Indivisible Central Maryland is an unpaid, volunteer grassroots organization of constituents of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County and Prince George’s County who are dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values. **Indivisible Central Maryland strongly supports HB0304.** Our local law enforcement agencies are in place to protect residents by preventing and solving crimes. 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.

As well, 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.

In policing, trust between officers and residents is critically important. As a state, we have recognized the fact that we cannot have trust in police if they are also involved in deportation. To reestablish trust and cooperation between Marylanders and law enforcement, we must end this situation where state and local police use their time and resources to do the job that federal enforcement officers are paid to do.

For all these reasons, Indivisible Central Maryland strongly **SUPPORTS HB0304.** We recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee. With questions, please call Liz Enagonio at 301-351-6451.

Liz Enagonio, advocate, on behalf of Indivisible Central Maryland
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