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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL HB304, State and Local Government - Participation in
Federal Immigration Enforcement

Mar 1, 2021

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Chris Apple

I am Chris Apple, I live in Columbia in District 13. This testimony is in support of Bill HB304.

Since its inception after 9/11, there have been numerous reports of abhorrent behavior by ICE. It has warehoused people in deplorable conditions for long periods of time, denying them medical care. There is frequent physical and sexual abuse of detainees. ICE has created a system designed to indefinitely separate parents and children and involuntarily sterilize women. Each year, dozens of people die in ICE's custody due to neglect and inhumane conditions. Whether here legally or not, no one should be subjected to this kind of abuse, under *any* circumstances.

ICE's sprawling operations have little or no oversight. It is often difficult to track down what happens to the thousands who vanish into their custody. Maryland should not be an accessory to such a gross abandonment of transparency and human rights.

Increasingly, legal citizens are being swept up at ICE checkpoints and other operations. Those citizens are often arrested because they were racially profiled. Immigrants are a vibrant, cherished element of Maryland's communities and culture. Collaborating with ICE sends a message that Marylanders' human rights are up for debate - that although they are here legally, they are just one traffic stop away from detention and life-threatening conditions. That message is morally untenable. This is not an organization that Maryland should be associated with. Until such time that the human rights violations are eliminated, Maryland should break off any collaboration with ICE.

I respectfully urge you to support HB304.