

To Chairman Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Fr: Sandy Tuttle, Montgomery County, Maryland

Re: Oppose HB 750, Office of the Attorney General – Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings
Coordinator – **written testimony for the record**

Chairman Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee, as a long time resident of Montgomery County, I am opposed to taxpayer funded legal representation for people who are here illegally. No one is prohibiting them from obtaining legal counsel and deportation is a civil matter, by in large. If this bill were to be enacted, it would be unfair, to those citizens who need legal representation for other civil proceedings, such as bankruptcy, or divorce. How come taxpayer funded legal representation is not being provided to them? That would only seem **fair** – but they, too, are welcome to obtain legal counsel.

Montgomery County several years ago, initiated a similar program at a cost then of \$273,000 to taxpayers. That program has expanded and has increased the cost to taxpayers since that time. At a time when we can least afford it, I respectfully request the committee oppose HB 750.