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County Executive

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BILL NO.: **HB 304**

TITLE: State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

SPONSOR: Delegate Fisher

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 3, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 304 – State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement. This bill would provide immunity from civil or criminal liability for refusing to provide immigration information to the federal government, and change law enforcement procedures targeting undocumented immigrants to foster community trust in government.

Baltimore County has implemented and repeatedly affirmed an Executive Order to this effect because County Executive Olszewski understands that public trust in law enforcement by all residents is essential to fostering fair and orderly government. It is the right of all residents within its borders to enjoy the comfort and safety Baltimore County offers; and when anyone is fearful that utilizing essential local resources will lead to their punishment or removal, government fails to execute its primary responsibility.

Similar to Baltimore County’s policy, this bill prevents law enforcement from inquiring about immigration status, making arrests related to a civil immigration violation, detaining an individual beyond their court ordered release date, and cooperating with federal immigration authorities in the investigation and apprehension of undocumented immigrants. By prohibiting these actions by law enforcement, residents of any immigration status would be able to avail themselves of essential public safety resources. Baltimore County takes pride in and welcomes all its immigrant residents, and firmly believes all deserve the faith in their government and access to necessary services.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 304. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.