



January 22, 2021

Honorable Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB15 – Governor's Office on Immigrant Affairs

Dear Chair Maggie McIntosh and House Appropriations Committee Members:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 15 entitled Governor's Office on Immigrant Affairs. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization.

Immigrants have been part of America's story for generations. They boost our economy, add to the rich cultural fabric of America, and ensure shared prosperity. Tech giants and startups such as Amazon, Apple, Google, and Yahoo were all founded by immigrants or the children of immigrants.

Despite the many contributions they make to our state, there simply aren't enough resources for immigrants to turn to when they newly arrive and need help integrating into society.

This bill aims to establish a new office within state government, which will be exclusively dedicated to helping immigrants smoothly assimilate into their community. It will help them develop skills and find jobs based on their abilities.

It also aims to improve public safety and civic participation. We support this bill because it enriches immigrants' experiences in our state. Therefore, we respectfully urge your vote in favor of it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Huzzaifa Muhammad
Government Affairs Intern, CAIR Office in Maryland
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Email: huzzaifamhammad@gmail.com