



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chairman
And Members of the Judiciary Committee
Maryland house of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB 114** – Access to Counsel on Immigration Matters – **OPPOSED**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members,

The 1,480 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women oppose HB 114 that would provide free legal counsel on immigration matters for individuals illegally present in the United States, a privilege not afforded American citizens.

The United States is a country of laws. Maryland needs to respect and enforce those laws.

Individuals who enter the United States illegally should not have their legal counsel provided at taxpayers' expense. The Policy and Fiscal Note for HB 114 is not yet available. However, the Policy and Fiscal Note from HB 750 of 2021 states: "*OAG estimates that associated costs of the legal representation exceed \$6.0 million annually.*" Projected administrative costs increased from \$241,877 in FY 2023 to \$266,799 by FY 2026.

Marylanders pay high taxes and are dealing with 40-year high inflation. Prices of food, fuel, housing and medical care are all rising steeply. Free legal counsel for illegal immigrants at citizen's expense is totally unacceptable.

Please give HB 114 an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women