



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 0559** Probation not Deportation – **OPPOSED**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women opposes HB 559. Under federal law, probation before judgement is grounds for the deportation of illegal immigrants. This bill is specifically designed to circumvent that law. HB 0559 authorizes the Court to withhold making a formal judgement for the express purpose of avoiding the possibility of deportation of the guilty party.

It would allow the Court to make findings of fact sufficient to support a guilty verdict but, instead of making a formal determination, allow the defendant to sign a probation agreement that the guilty finding and maximum sentence would be imposed if the defendant violates the agreement.

An illegal immigrant in such a case has already violated the laws of the United States by entering the country illegally. Then, the illegal immigrant committed a crime while present in Maryland.

How many crimes do we allow an illegal immigrant to commit before deportation is deemed appropriate? Do we continue to prevent the deportation of an illegal immigrant when they commit a 3rd crime? Perhaps a more serious crime than the earlier one?

When do we enforce the laws of our country? Where is the commitment to the safety of American citizens and legal immigrants?

Please give HB 0559 an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women