

**Dir Adriana Lee, GOIA Testimony HB0961 senate.pdf**

Uploaded by: Adriana Lee

Position: FAV

WES MOORE  
GOVERNOR

ARUNDA MILLER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



March 28, 2024

**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**Chair: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman**  
**Vice Chair: The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan**

**Director Adriana Lee, Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs**  
**Favorable Testimony / (HB961) "State Government – Commission on New Americans – Established".**

Good afternoon Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. My name is Adriana Lee, I am the Director of the Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and I come before you in strong support of HB961, which will establish a commission on new Americans.

As Maryland's Director of Immigrant Affairs, I recognize that this bill will have a profoundly positive impact on the quality of life of our new Americans.

This commission will ensure that the state's efforts are directed correctly and equitably for refugees, asylees, immigrants and second-generation immigrants.

Close to one million immigrants reside in Maryland, this is about 15% of the total population, and more than half have limited English skills.

Immigrant workers are essential to the growth of our state, they contribute greatly to the workforce and productivity. They are found in all areas, in science, technology, health, production, construction, agriculture and more. Immigrant workers are helping to meet the growing demand for health care, childcare and caregivers. Many immigrants are entrepreneurs or business owners.

Lack of proficiency in the English language results in a lack of knowledge, making this population an easy target for abuse, discrimination, fraud, hostility, and crime. Immigrants who are black, Hispanic, or Asian are most likely to report discrimination at work.

It also makes it difficult for them to navigate between state agencies and services. This prevents them from growing as fast as they could if they had more knowledge of existing resources.

As an example, these are Marylanders who needed our help:

- I met a Venezuelan engineer with university and master's studies who works cleaning offices because he doesn't speak English and can't apply for a better job.
- I met a restaurant worker from Guatemala who, when paying taxes for the first time, found out his tax preparer stole his identity, sent false documents, and collected his tax refund.
- I met a widowed Mexican woman with 7 children whose husband was murdered a few months ago for being Hispanic and having a loud party.

These three immigrants didn't know where to go to apply for a job, to make a police report or prepare a funeral.

We need a commission that serves as a means for immigrant voices to be heard and understood.

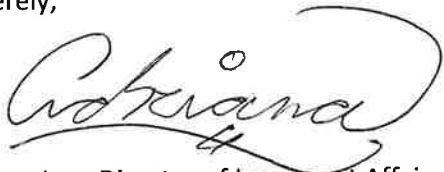
A commission that supports integration in the social, civic, economic, and cultural engagement and allows these communities to thrive and succeed as Americans while maintaining their own identities.

A commission for New Americans will allow us to have representatives from different areas who will be able to explain to us the needs, the problems, and the challenges these communities experienced every day.

We know that an immigrant community equipped with knowledge, skills, and resources will be able to grow and reach its full potential. This bill will help thousands of families, in all aspects, allowing economic, social, human, and cultural growth.

I ask you to please support HB0961 to establish a New Americans commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adriana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Adriana Lee, Director of Immigrant Affairs

Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

**HB0961\_CC\_Martinez\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Madelin Martinez

Position: FAV

**House Bill 961**

State Government - Commission on New Americans – Established  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 28<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Support**

**Catholic Charities of Baltimore backs HB 961**, which aims to create the Commission on New Americans. This commission would have the important job of studying and regularly reporting to the Governor and The General Assembly about how new Americans contribute to Maryland and how easy it is for them to access government services in the state.

For over a century, Catholic Charities has provided support to Marylanders in need, including new Americans. Our commitment to uplifting communities spans a myriad of services, from aiding individuals in their pursuit of employment and career advancement to providing vital support in healing from trauma and addiction. We stand as a beacon of hope, extending compassionate services to newcomers as they navigate the intricate landscape of life in a new country.

**The Esperanza Center, our comprehensive resource hub, has been a lifeline for immigrants from diverse backgrounds since 1963.** From education and healthcare to immigration legal matters and family reunification, our dedicated staff and volunteers help thousands of immigrants annually. **The Client Services team at Esperanza Center serves as a vital entry point for individuals, fielding over 5,000 inquiries annually and addressing a wide array of needs, from translations to benefits applications and beyond.** Every success story, from securing a job to keeping families united or enrolling a child in school, underscores the transformative impact of our services.

**The establishment of the Commission on New Americans represents a proactive step towards addressing the needs and aspirations of immigrant and refugee communities.** By meticulously studying and reporting on their contributions and the availability of essential services, the Commission can offer invaluable insights to policymakers, paving the way for more comprehensive support and integration strategies.

Moreover, HB 961 provides an opportunity to evaluate existing pathways and services, ensuring they align with the evolving needs of our immigrant population. **In a state where equal access to public services is not just a moral imperative but a legal right, this bill is a crucial stride towards fostering equity and inclusion for all Marylanders.**

**For these reasons, Catholic Charities of Baltimore urges the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 961.**

Submitted By: Madelin Martinez, Assistant Director of Advocacy.

**2024 HB0961 Testimony Against 2024-03-28.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: UNF

Honorable Senators

I oppose HB0961.

I am against establishing a Commission on New Americans to study and report periodically on the contributions of new Americans and the availability of government services for new Americans.

I find it disturbing that we are creating a process to help non-citizens find programs designed to spend tax payer money for non-citizens when we have numerous citizens throughout the State who cannot find adequate housing food, and medical care.

It is especially galling that the Commission will have 5 members who are not citizens deciding how to spend tax payer money on non-citizens. More than likely, a large number of these "New Americans" have violated the law to enter this country, yet we are expected to help them find shelter, clothing, food, jobs, medical treatments and education. Meanwhile citizens who are homeless or living below poverty levels are being ignored. We are already suffering from crime, inflation, lack of resources, a bad medical system, unaffordable necessities, fees, overpriced utilities and more because we welcome illegal immigrants.

These "new Americans" are being exploited as they take away jobs from our citizens because they will work for substandard wages in substandard conditions.

Your taxpayers are fleeing, especially those of us in retirement, because we can't afford to live here and it will soon be too dangerous to live here.

Please vote against HB0961.

Alan Lang, District 31  
242 Armstrong Lane  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
410.336.9745  
[Alanlang1@verizon.net](mailto:Alanlang1@verizon.net)

**HB0961-OPPOSE.pdf**

Uploaded by: Linda Diefenbach

Position: UNF



HB0961-OPPOSE

I would consider this bill feasible if “legally present in the US” rather than ‘NEW AMERICANS” were stipulated in this bill. As it stands, this bill must be rejected.

Please OPPOSE this bill.

Linda Diefenbach  
Middletown, MD

**HB0961 - vote NO - 3-27-24.pdf**

Uploaded by: Melissa Idleman

Position: UNF

Greetings,

I am asking for you to vote unfavorable on HB091 – As I read this as a bill that is pushing in supporting MD becoming a sanctuary state. I do not want us to become a state of individuals that do not follow the law of our land.

I do believe these “new Americans “ are seeking a better life as we are the greatest nation in the world BUT, unfortunately our current administration have allowed so many illegal immigrant into the US that its now unsustainable.

We have way to many Americans that have been struggling way to long and needs to be put first as LAW ABIDENING CITIZENS.

I don't even like writing not to support other humans make a better life for themselves but our open borders are putting our Americans families and children in danger.

Please vote against this Bill HB0961

Thanks,

Melissa Idleman

**Oppose HB 0961.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Vernon

Position: UNF

Oppose HB 0961

Calling this bill to support New Americans should be re-titled the bill to give stuff to Illegal Americans.

No equity, but the equality to earn your way through hard work for legal citizens.

I strongly oppose this bill.

Michael Vernon

Crownsville, MD 21032

# **HB0961 Oppose.pdf**

Uploaded by: Peggy Williams

Position: UNF

HB0961      Oppose

State Government - Commission on New Americans – Established

Dear Committee Members:

I strongly oppose this bill. I don't see how giving free government services can be considered, given the violent crimes being committed against our own citizens. If unvetted and violent illegal offenders are allowed to flood into our country, then we should be able to collect this information on them to keep the community safe until they are deported.

After watching our border crisis evolve into the destruction of our security and law and order, this bill is the cream and cherry ontop - literal insanity!

Vote NO on HB0961.

Peggy Williams

Severna Park

D31

# **Hb961 Oppose.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robin Sirkel

Position: UNF



## **Hb961 Oppose**

Please oppose this bill. It is not right to provide free government services to people who are not even legal citizens. They have illegally entered the country and should not be provided free taxpayer benefits. How can we afford this? This is insanity.

Robin Sirkel  
Pasadena MD

**HB0961 .pdf**

Uploaded by: Suzanne Price

Position: UNF

State Government - Commission on “**New Americans**” - Established

PLEASE KNOW the OLD AMERICANS-Legal Citizens are disgusted by this extremely bad bill HB0961 and what it implies.

It appears to be a “commission” on how to distribute OUR (Old Americans-CITIZENS) tax dollars to Illegals to buy their votes. More FREEBIES to hustle naive newcomers who’ve been promised a free ride from Leftist organizations at the border. Think DACA! Many of us are going broke to put our children through private education and universities and anyone who illegally walks over the border gets an Obamaphone, \$5,000 grand gift card, free medical, free housing, free food, free education for them and their offspring and cousins and anyone else, plus so much more.

SAY NO to this freeloading and life on the dole. TAKE care of our vets and our homeless and stop importing “NEW Americans” for the sake of this country. This is just more Cloward-Piven.

Another terrible idea and horrible bill that doesn’t take care of our own Americans.

Suzanne Price  
AACO, Maryland

**UNF HB0961 (2024) SENATE EE&E vmcavoy.pdf**

Uploaded by: vince mcavoy

Position: UNF

**UNFAVORABLE** on HOUSE BILL 961  
Health and Government Operations

Delegates Taveras, Acevero, Bhandari, Boafu, Charkoudian, Hill, Ivey, Lehman, J. Long, Mireku-North, Ruff, and Wilkins

Dear Senators of E, E & E,

The tone-deafness of the sponsors of this bill combined with the utter selfishness and pandering to peoples from the sponsors' own 3<sup>rd</sup> -world countries seen in HB0961 is astounding and rapacious.

**DESTROYED ECONOMY & PROSPECTS**

The sponsors and proponents of this bill from HGO and the wider body across the avenue aim for festering a locust-like attack on the land. The House GOP made it clear that this bill is unwanted. Their amendments, both declined by their tone-deaf colleagues, aims to guide these new hordes to the limited resources of Maryland's foodstuffs, benefits and opportunity.

LEGAL Marylanders are struggling. The Maryland budget is wildly malapportioned in a time of need for lawful Maryland residents. What economy and job opportunities are House Dems looking at?! Do you see how **LAWFUL** American **CITIZENS** are struggling?!? Maryland residents (which include legal immigrants from Africa, China and other countries) have, in recent years, told hearing room after hearing room in both Legislative Chambers that there are processes for living in America and Maryland. There are legal processes for obtaining the benefits which White Americans pay into that illegals have not paid a (net) dime into.

There are millions of struggling Marylanders who have played by the rules, planned, scrimped, struggled... who have DIY'd their own homes, car repairs, clothes, and lives. They did this amid the ever-increasing, invading hordes of illegals wrecking our job opportunities, economies and futures. The sponsor, an insolent Delegate Taveras (recently seen attempting to posture against House Judiciary Chair in his hearing room), and other foreign-lander delegates have brought UN-American bills – like this one - aiming to defecate on the generosity of everkind Marylanders'. This exemplifies a hatred of the people born here to two American citizen parents.

**ELON MUSK SEES WHAT YOU DON'T**

<https://twitter.com/elonmusk/status/1764351279113867582> Elon Musk thought this tweet was worthwhile to watch as Denver is allocating in their budget hundreds of millions of dollars to ravenous, invading freeloaders without even calculating how such bills will deplete their entire municipal budget. The mayors of gigantic New York City and Chicago have testified to the same municipal shortfalls due to violent and rapacious invaders. A spirit of supporting an endless stream of freeloaders unleashed upon society by the Biden Administration's 12 million+ UN-Americans is a malignant pox on working and retired Americans suffering economic depression through state giveaways, the purposeful depletion of oil reserves, destruction of

infrastructure & supply chain, and the promotion of fentanyl and drugs coming from the Southern Border.

### **ANTI-WHITE, ANTI-AMERICAN BILL LANGUAGE**

Giving to people who haven't invested anything more than an interest in leaching off of Americans and Marylanders, not even so much as an effort to engage our naturalization process--- THAT is what this bill promotes::

**“NEW AMERICAN MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A RESIDENT OF MARYLAND WHOSE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IS A COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES; AND WHO IS NOT A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES”**

I am always offput by the various delegates from points outside of America who have no compunction to both::

- (1) Denigrate the system that White America created in Maryland and these United States; while
- (2) AT THE SAME TIME sucking at the teat and steering illegals toward the eventual destruction of both Maryland and America as First-world sovereign states.

### **SOVEREIGNTY EXISTS WHETHER YOU AGREE OR NOT**

Imagine this body's hypocrisy regarding HB0961. Telling Western Maryland lawmakers – like Delegate Jason Buckel – a few years ago that they were unpatriotic, acted wrongfully, and their counties can't secede from a Maryland that aims to impoverish those (largely White) areas of Maryland; which denies them equal access to the largesse of Annapolis and D.C. matching funds; and which ignores their counties' culture, morality, and commonsense endemic to Maryland's more rural, hardworking, lawful and productive farming areas.

Yet the sometimes thieving, always invading, occasionally murderous (the murder of Laken Riley) UN-American illegals arriving in hordes are welcomed by Maryland's Lutheran Relief Services; the thieving USCCB, as evidenced by the Archdiocese's lobbyist arm, Maryland Catholic Conference; CASA de Maryland's shameless operatives promoting illegal immigration; and various jewish entities in Maryland. For them, Delegate Deni Taveras and a handful of others (not originally from America) created **a bill to give away America to non-Americans.**

Senators, I ask you to show these delegates sponsoring HB0961 that they should hang their heads in shame. The nature of what brought HB0961 – illegal and parasitic anti-White, anti-American sentiment - is disgusting. I URGE an unfavorable for this bill and its giveaways from lawful inhabitants of America to those who haven't invested **one thing** in America except a greed to steal and destroy.

humbly  
~vince