

Written Testimony for **SB 490/HB 696**: State Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, and Workgroups - Elimination of Citizenship Requirements and Establishment of Diversity Requirements - Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee and Health and Government Operations Committee:

This bill's synopsis reads "...Eliminating citizenship requirements for boards and commissions; and requiring that members of boards, committees, commissions, task forces, and workgroups reflect the full diversity of the State to the extent practicable..."

This bill will do nothing but hurt the **citizens** of Maryland and any other **citizens** of the United States that decide to move to Maryland. This bill endangers all of us in the state of Maryland instead of keeping us safe from **illegal immigrant criminals** that have come into our country en masse since January 20, 2021. Since that date, millions of **drug traffickers, murderers, rapists and human and sex traffickers** have entered our country illegally, without the review process that had been in effect for decades before that. We cannot risk letting any of these **criminals** be appointed to any of our State Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, and Workgroups!! This bill **eliminates** the stipulation of being "**a citizen**" in order to serve on any of these entities. This will encourage **drug traffickers, murderers, rapists and human and sex traffickers** to push their criminal behaviors and acts onto our society, especially in the following departments:

"**Correctional Services**", which will now include a "...'**RESIDENTS**' advisory committee' for the State correctional facilities located in or planned for location in each of the following areas: (1) Baltimore City; (2) Cumberland; (3) Hagerstown; (4) Jessup; and (5) Somerset County. This could lead to illegal immigrant criminals now having input into how our State correctional facilities are run and who will get parole or be released, i.e. their criminal acquaintances. It also brings the possibility of violence toward rival inmates.

"Economic Development", which includes a "**Maryland Military Installation Council**", which could potentially give an "**illegal immigrant criminal**" an opportunity to control, influence, or impact our military in some way. The bill specifically mentions the following military Alliances: "the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance", "the Army Alliance", "the Military Alliance Council of Charles County",

“the Maritime Technology Alliance”, “the **Fort Detrick** Alliance”, the **Fort Meade** Alliance, and “the Andrews Business and Community Alliance”. We absolutely cannot risk the safety of our country by appointing “**illegal immigrant criminals**” to any positions whatsoever in these Alliances! There should never be “**illegal immigrant criminals**” anywhere near any military installation! This is unacceptable!

“**Family Law**”, which includes a “local [citizen] RESIDENT board of review for children in out-of-home care” and a State [Citizens] RESIDENTS **Review Board for Children**”, which may “make recommendations to the Secretary of Human Services and the General Assembly regarding: (i) the response of the State to child abuse and neglect; and (ii) out-of-home care policies, procedures, and practices”. This would put “**illegal immigrant criminals**” contributing to the “policies, procedures, and practices” that have to do with our children! This would put our children in their reach. Again, this is unacceptable!

“**Public Safety**”, which includes the “**Sexual Offender Advisory Board**”. Again, we are putting our children in harm’s way and within the reach of “**illegal immigrant criminals**”. It’s basically like asking the fox to watch the henhouse. This is beyond unacceptable!

“**Maryland Aviation Commission**”, which could risk the lives of our citizens when they use air travel in their everyday lives.

I’m not against “State Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, and Workgroups” having members that are from a variety of backgrounds. I think this is essential. However, we need to honor and safeguard our Maryland and United States **citizens** at the same time. Therefore, we must have people that are **citizens** who have an allegiance to the United States and Maryland working in these groups!!

I have a friend that I met in college who is from another country. He immigrated to the United States legally years ago. He has told me that one thing that bothers him immensely is to see people from other nations illegally entering our country. His very strongly held belief is that if he can legally immigrate to this country, then everyone else from other nations can do the same. He and I share that strongly held belief. Neither of us are saying we don’t want a nation or state that is rich in people from different backgrounds. We are simply saying that we want those people to come to our wonderful country **legally**.

For these reasons, please **VOTE NO** on this bill. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother of 3 and Maryland Resident