

I strongly oppose SB977 for the following reasons:

SB977 is a dangerous bill that prioritizes shielding illegal immigrants over enforcing the law. It undermines public safety, restricts cooperation with federal authorities, and puts Maryland communities at risk. Here's why it should be opposed:

1. Blocks Cooperation with Federal Immigration Enforcement

- **SB977 prohibits law enforcement agencies and state/local government units from sharing data or assisting with federal immigration enforcement.**
- This would **turn Maryland into a de facto sanctuary state**, making it harder to remove dangerous criminals from our communities.

2. Endangers Public Safety

- Limiting cooperation with ICE means that **criminal illegal immigrants could remain in Maryland**, even after committing serious crimes.
- Without access to law enforcement facilities, databases, or resources, **federal agents will struggle to do their jobs**, making Maryland a safe haven for lawbreakers.

3. Overrides Local Authority & Ties Law Enforcement's Hands

- **Local law enforcement should have the right to decide how they cooperate with federal authorities**, not be forced into noncompliance.
- The bill **prioritizes the protection of undocumented immigrants over the safety of Maryland residents.**

4. Encourages Illegal Immigration & Burdens Taxpayers

- **By making it harder to enforce immigration laws, SB977 will encourage more illegal immigration into Maryland.**
- Maryland taxpayers will have to bear the cost of **healthcare, education, and social services for a growing undocumented population**, straining already limited resources.

5. Conflicts with Federal Law

- **SB977 directly interferes with federal immigration enforcement efforts**, potentially violating **federal supremacy laws.**
- If Maryland blocks ICE from doing its job, **the state could face federal consequences**, including the loss of federal funding.

Conclusion: SB977 Must Be Defeated

This bill is a **reckless step toward making Maryland a full sanctuary state**, undermining both **public safety and the rule of law**. Lawmakers should focus on protecting **legal residents and upholding immigration laws**—not shielding those who break them.

Please vote NO to SB977!

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Howard County