

House Bills #1431, #HB1006 and HB#1222

Favorable

Title: Immigrant Justice Bills

Judiciary Committee: Luke Clippinger Chair, and Sandy Bartlett, Vice-Chair

Testimony submitted by Miner L. (Moe) Brown of District 11B

(A CASA Ally, former Habitat for Humanity volunteer for over 9+ years, active in Scouting America in Baltimore, and member of the Social Advocacy Committee, Chizuk Amuno Congregation, Pikesville, MD)

It is no secret that our immigrant neighbors, friends, and service providers are under attack! It is also no secret that immigrant families are indispensable to the economy and tax support to the State of Maryland being 17% of our population with the 4th largest State population per capita in the country. They often must perform various work that others refuse to do. And, they pay taxes and into Social Security without receiving benefits.

With President Trump's litany of Executive Orders signed on January 20, 2025, several draconian actions such as removing immigrant protections, freezing new immigrants from coming into the country, and initiated forced deportations leading to the break-up of immigrant and immigrant/American-citizen families. Critical for the safety of immigrant families Trump also rescinded a policy that protected certain areas- such as schools, houses of worship, and hospitals from immigrant enforcement humanely established by President Biden.

The following bills attempt to create laws for all our community members so they can have safe access to basic services and support without fear and reprisal in the wake of the litany of cruel executive orders targeting immigrants.

1. **Maryland Data Privacy Act (HB1431)**- This bill will stop ICE from accessing state and local data of immigrant Marylanders without warrant.
2. **Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (HB1006)**- This act establishes clear guidelines on limiting ICE access to sensitive locations including schools, courthouses, hospitals, places of worship, and other vital spaces. **It does not yet include day care locations- an oversight.**
3. **Maryland Values Act (HB1222)**- This legislation ends harmful 287(g) agreements held by several counties that allow local police (usually county sheriffs) to act as ICE agents.

One last note of the lack of empathy and care for the wellbeing of others shown by The President. On January 20th, by another executive order signed by Trump, he suspended the entry program and canceled incoming travel arrangements for about 10,000 approved refugees. Separately, the administration ordered outside resettlement agencies receiving federal funds to stop providing services to refugees who are now here. Currently, there are now families living in Baltimore having no idea if or when they will ever see their relatives again who are waiting to come here.

In the Jewish faith, we believe that we have a moral obligation to provide assistance and support to all strangers as "We were once strangers in the land of Egypt". Time is of the essences. **Thank you for your support in trying to bringing some sanity and peace back to our State through the passage of these Bills.**

Miner L. (Moe) Brown (District 11B)