

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill 660
Favorable

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 660 a favorable report.

I'm among the first to advise people to avoid calling the police when possible. However, when talking to my son about what to do if ICE knocks on our door, I told him that calling the county police was an option. I gave him a list of things to do, which includes telling ICE agents that they're consenting to being recorded if they remain on our property, recording them, asking for their ID, asking if they have a warrant signed by a judge, and telling them that they're trespassing, harassing, and intimidating him if they don't leave. But we all know that ICE agents lie. We know that they break down doors without warrants. We know that they detain and arrest citizens. We know that they steal phones. We know that they assault and even kill people for no reason whatsoever. So I told my son that he can choose to call the police, simply because our county police have body cameras and ICE agents don't have the right to take those. I told my son that the police may not be able to intervene, but they can serve as witnesses.

None of us should have to think about these things. None of us should have to worry whether our children will be safe. But in these fascist times, we have reason to be very concerned.

The police may not be able to do anything other than serve as witnesses, just as many of us have served as witnesses to police interactions with the public. But the police, while in uniform, are safer from ICE than the rest of us. And someone needs to be able document what really happens. Please vote for Senate Bill 660. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD