

**HB 495:** Criminal Procedure - Immigration Arrest - Immunity in Connection With Court Proceeding: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to respectfully, **strongly oppose HB 495**, concerning *Criminal Procedure – Immigration Arrest – Immunity in Connection With Court Proceeding*.

While ensuring access to the courts is an important objective, **HB 495** raises serious concerns regarding the balance between court accessibility and the enforcement of existing immigration laws. Granting immunity from immigration arrest in connection with court proceedings may create unintended conflicts with federal enforcement authority and complicate coordination between state and federal agencies.

This legislation could also result in unequal application of the law by creating a category of individuals who are shielded from certain enforcement actions solely based on their presence at or participation in a court proceeding. **HB 495 will undermine the principle that laws should be applied consistently and uniformly.**

Additionally, the bill may place court personnel and local officials in complex legal and operational situations, requiring them to interpret and apply restrictions that intersect with federal jurisdiction. Without clear procedural safeguards and guidance, **this could expose the State to litigation and administrative burdens.**

Protecting the integrity of Maryland's judicial system is essential, but it should be done in a manner that preserves respect for the rule of law, maintains clear lines of authority, and avoids unintended legal conflicts.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 495**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals