

## TESTIMONY FOR HB0309

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Stewart

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Person Submitting:** Monica O'Connor - CoChair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my testimony today on HB0309. I urge you to vote favorably on HB0309.

I believe that the members of this committee understand that standing up to the inhumanity of the Trump Administration immigration policy is our moral duty. I believe that our state has the duty and the power to enact laws to protect all of us, documented and undocumented from the lawlessness, cruelty and injustice being played out across our nation.

We have watched in horror as our neighbors and friends have been profiled, arrested and detained while attempting to show up to regular immigration check ins - as part of their path to legal citizenship. This disturbing practice of arresting people as they attempt to follow the laws of the land has ruined lives, separated families, terrorized communities and is turning our nation into a dystopic nightmare.

Every day residents in Maryland are showing up with compassion for their neighbors and outrage at what our nation is becoming under the Trump Administration. We must all be brave. I urge this committee to take the bold step of outlawing this practice in the state of Maryland.

A favorable vote on HB0309 is one necessary action the legislative body must take.

Respectfully,

Monica Oconnor  
Ellicott City