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Judiciary Committee



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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett  
101 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**SPONSOR TESTIMONY- HB0719 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibition Against Sanctuary Policies**

Dear Chair Bartlett, vice chair Davis and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

HB0719 would prohibit the State, units of local government, and law enforcement agencies from adopting or maintaining sanctuary policies. Specifically, the bill defines and restricts any policy that impedes communication with federal immigration authorities, compliance with detainers, or the sharing of incarceration status and release dates. HB 0719 also repeals existing provisions of law that limit law enforcement inquiries into immigration status and those that restrict federal access to state databases.

This bill establishes a uniform standard for inter-agency cooperation across Maryland. By removing statutory barriers that currently prevent local officers from communicating with federal partners, this legislation allows for the orderly identification and processing of individuals in state custody. This ensures that law enforcement agencies can coordinate on judicial warrants and joint operations without the constraints of conflicting local mandates.

This legislation matters because public safety is best served through transparency and consistent cooperation between all levels of government. By prohibiting sanctuary policies, HB0719 eliminates the "patchwork" of enforcement that can lead to preventable safety risks and ensures that state resources are not used to obstruct federal law. Standardizing these procedures protects the integrity of the justice system and promotes a more secure environment for all Marylanders.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report for HB0719 to restore law enforcement coordination and ensure uniform public safety standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren C. Arikan".

Delegate Lauren C. Arikan