

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice-Chair Davis and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Linda Girdner and I live in Gambrills, MD. I am writing to urge you to **support HB0495 Criminal Procedure - Immigration Arrest - Immunity in Connection with Court Proceeding.**

This appears to be a straightforward bill that allows people residing in Maryland, no matter their immigration status, to be able to show up for court proceedings in good faith. What if they have been subpoenaed as a witness in a criminal case and didn't show up due to fear of ICE? Maybe they are a U.S. citizen but speak with an accent and/or are brown-skinned and believe they will be picked up at the courthouse and sent to Texas or God knows where with no due process.

How does that enhance community safety? As you know, a subpoena to appear as a witness is a court order and must be obeyed. Failure to appear in court in response to a subpoena could place a person in contempt of court. Therefore, not to allow individuals to safely appear in good faith puts them in an untenable double bind.

Make communities safer by protecting individuals in sensitive locations, such as courthouses, by **supporting HB0495 Criminal Procedure - Immigration Arrest - Immunity in Connection with Court Proceeding.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Girdner

Member,

Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis and Anne Arundel County