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PARLIAMENTARIAN
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Ways and Means Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 2, 2020

House Bill 818 Redistricting and Apportionment - Population Count - Citizenship Status

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present House Bill 818 Redistricting and Apportionment - Population Count - Citizenship Status, which prohibits the exclusion of individuals based on citizenship status from the decennial U.S. census population count for redistricting congressional, state, and local legislative districts.

Currently, the President of the United States and states, such as Alabama are taking actions to exclude immigrants when redrawing districts following the 2020 Census. Excluding immigrants means erasing them from our democracy and not including them in the allocation of necessary goods and services.

HB 818 demonstrates the inclusiveness of our legislative process, and helps communities in the state receive their fair share of resources by ensuring that all census respondents will be included in the population count, regardless of their citizenship status.

Maryland should make an inclusive statement by codifying the inclusion of immigrants in our redistricting process. HB 818 codifies the fact that Maryland's government and our state democracy serves everyone. For these reasons, I urge the committee to give a **favorable** report for **HB 818**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins