

Amy Waychoff
HB 388
Opposed

My name is Amy Waychoff and I have lived in Montgomery County, MD, for over 32 years. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am strongly opposed to all bills that would turn Maryland into a Sanctuary State. HB 388 is but one example. There are many myths claiming that illegal immigration does not harm society. One of those myths is that illegal aliens commit crimes at a lower rate than American citizens. At the federal level, a recent report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics showed that while non-citizens constitute only about seven percent of the U.S. population, non-citizens accounted for 24 percent of all federal drug arrests and nine percent of all federal arrests for violent crimes.

The data is even more striking at the state and local level. According to a recent analysis of State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) data, illegal aliens are at least three times more likely to be incarcerated in state prisons and county jails than are U.S. Citizens. A separate report from the Texas Department of Public Safety analyzed the entire Texas criminal career of 212,000 illegal aliens. These illegal aliens were convicted of 234,000 crimes. Of these, over 500 were homicides, and over 7,300 were for sexual assault and other sexual offenses. This report also made a very salient point: even if illegal aliens were NOT committing crime at a higher rate than U.S. citizens, here we have “thousands of crimes that

should not have occurred and thousands of victims that should not have been victimized because the perpetrator should not be there.” In other words, by definition, illegal alien crime is totally preventable.

Here is an example of just one heinous preventable crime, the blame for which can be laid firmly at the feet of those who create sanctuary jurisdictions. In New York City, where hundreds of criminal illegal aliens are released EACH MONTH instead of being handed over to ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), a young Guyanese illegal alien raped and murdered a 92-year-old woman, Maria Fuertes, in Queens on January 6, 2020. The rapist had been released two months earlier by the NYPD, despite the fact that ICE had placed a detainer on him. According to the criminal complaint, Maria Fuertes “lay half-dressed in 32-degree weather for two hours before she was found, conscious but ‘incoherent,’ at two o’clock in the morning.” So go ahead, turn the beautiful state of Maryland into a sanctuary for those who, as in this case, have no respect for human life, let alone the rule of law.