



## Indivisible: Central Maryland

**Susan Radke, Advocate**

[Dsusan56@gmail.com](mailto:Dsusan56@gmail.com)

**Liz Enagonio, Advocate**

[lenagonio@icloud.com](mailto:lenagonio@icloud.com)

**Lois Einolf, Advocate**

[leinolf@yahoo.com](mailto:leinolf@yahoo.com)

**Meena Sahu, Advocate**

[emsahu@gmail.com](mailto:emsahu@gmail.com)

Liz Enagonio

Indivisible Central Maryland

[lenagonio@icloud.com](mailto:lenagonio@icloud.com)

301-351-6451

### **HB 388\_Indivisible Central Maryland\_Enagonio Liz\_SUPPORT .**

Indivisible Central Maryland SUPPORTS HB0338. As an organization supportive of legislation that protects and enhances the lives of our fellow Marylanders, we work to ensure justice and equality for all, especially those who have not traditionally benefitted from equal treatment. Our core mission includes advocating for fair immigration policy. We believe that law enforcement agencies are in place to protect residents, not to serve as agents of ICE to seek to deport law-abiding immigrant residents. We believe that law enforcement agencies should be restricted from asking individuals about their immigration or citizenship status, transferring them to federal immigration authorities, or notifying federal immigration authorities of the individual's location, address or release date without a judicial warrant. Members of Indivisible Central Maryland volunteer to assist families who are legally admitted asylum seekers awaiting their immigration court hearings. Because we assist the families with rides to and from ICE check-ins or Master Hearings, to and from medical and dental appointments, and with grocery shopping, we get to know them personally. They are filled with dread and unrest, caught between terrible things that happened to them in their home countries and fear of police here acting in concert with DHS to hound them out of our country on the least excuse. Several of the families are afraid to drive, even though they have MD driver's licenses. They fear that they will be pulled over for a minor infraction and deported. Even after they have been granted work permits, they go straight to work and straight home in order to minimize their exposure to possible police interactions. Over Labor Day weekend, one of my families called me in a panic. They had heard a rumor that police were going through their apartment complex knocking on doors, asking for "papers," and allegedly taking immigrants away. This family wanted me to help them move out of that complex. And listen to this: I was taking a father and his 8 year old daughter from Guatemala who have been granted asylum to an appointment. Several blocks ahead, a police car was stopped with its lights flashing. The child cried out "policia!" and ducked down in the seat to avoid being seen. Is this reasonable, I ask you? I personally would like to be able to reassure my families that these fears are unfounded. Indivisible Central Maryland supports HB0338 because we believe that law enforcement should not collaborate with ICE in seeking to enforce harsh, unjust, and illegal deportation measures.

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