



## Council on American-Islamic

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Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
101 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB388 – Criminal Procedure – Civil Immigration – Enforcement - Restrictions**

Dear Chair Clippinger:

On behalf of the Council on American Islamic Relations, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB388 entitled Criminal Procedure – Civil Immigration – Enforcement - Restrictions sponsored by Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk et al. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, and we are dedicated to enhancing the understanding of Islam, protecting civil rights, and promoting justice.

As an organization, we have historically supported immigrant communities and common-sense immigration reform; our nation is made up of immigrants who arrived to our country's shores in search of a better life and opportunities for themselves and their loved ones, and we believe this is a fact that deserves to be celebrated.

Under this current White House administration, many immigrant communities are constantly being scrutinized, profiled and targeted for questioning by law enforcement agencies. HB388 would prohibit:

- 1) certain law enforcement agencies from asking an individual's immigration status, citizenship status, or place of birth
- 2) transferring an individual to federal immigration authorities under express circumstances without a warrant
- 3) notifying federal immigration authorities about an individual's location without a warrant, and
- 4) using law enforcement resources for civil immigration enforcement without a warrant

Maintaining trust between law enforcement agencies and individuals they are sworn to protect and serve is essential to preserving a democracy. It boosts the stability and viability of our communities, the integrity of the criminal justice system, and faith in safe and effective policing. Too many immigrant communities are currently living in fear, and we believe that measures like HB388 not only promote a safer society, they also decrease racial profiling and litigation and help restore faith in our local law enforcement agencies.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 388.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.  
Director, CAIR Office in Maryland  
Council on American-Islamic Relations

1. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2017/03/21/428776/negative-consequences-entangling-local-policing-immigration-enforcement/>