

Re: **Oppose HB0677**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee Members:

My name is Sandy Tuttle, and as a long time resident in the state of Maryland, I have watched with dismay as certain legislators seek to make Maryland a ‘sanctuary state’ by continuing to push for legislation protecting illegal alien criminals – year after year. For those Delegates, I have one question: Why do you seek to tie the hands of law enforcement, by risking the lives of citizens, immigrants, who are here both legally and illegally?

HB0677 seeks to do just that. This legislation, if enacted, would tie the hands of law enforcement officers/state from entering into or renewing any immigration detention agreement – and existing agreements would be terminated by 10/1/21. Why would you terminate or disallow successful programs like the 287 (g) – now operating in only three of our counties?

There are many horrific stories to tell about illegal aliens who have committed crimes, after serving their time, only to be released back into the community to re-offend. I often think of the mother whose son, a recent college graduate, who was hit, and subsequently dragged on his motorcycle by a drunk driver, who was here illegally. This was not the first time this illegal alien had driven while under the influence. Instead of being picked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as he should have been, he was released from jail and went on to change the lives of the Maloney family forever.

In 2014, Montgomery County ended any kind of cooperation with ICE. By 2017, a WTOP news report came out with a blaring headline: **Montgomery Co.: Home to local Hit Squad gang, MS-13 homicides.** Montgomery County, for all intent and purposes is a sanctuary county. To that end, we have become a magnet for those seeking to break laws. In recent years, even the Montgomery county council has also noted a spike in gang related criminal activity and is pouring even more of our hard earned tax dollars to combat a rise in homicides, rapes etc in the county. Just yesterday, an MS-13 gang member received 25 years for the slaying of a teen, whose head was severed, and his heart was ripped out – the killing took place in Montgomery County a few years ago, but as U.S Attorney Robert Hur, who is Maryland’s top federal prosecutor notes “(T)hey really in a lot of ways prey on their own immigrant community.’ So why is it okay to send those who are illegal criminal aliens back to the streets, more often than not, to reoffend?

It is beyond my comprehension how any Montgomery County Delegate can think that it is okay to do to the state, what has been done to Montgomery County. The illegal criminal aliens must be laughing at us and mocking those who support this as self-righteous.

Please learn from their mistakes.

Respectfully,

Sandy Tuttle