

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB0677

This bill is part of a compendium of sanctuary state bills introduced this session. It also has the dubious distinction of being of the same nature as legislation passed in California recently which is now the subject of a lawsuit by the federal government. As Attorney General Barr stated, “California has every right to decide how it want to manage its own prisoners and detainees but it has not authority to dictate to the federal government how it conducts federal operations”. The same applies to the state of Maryland.

This bill would require that ICE ship detainees out of state, then pay to shuttle them back and forth for court dates. In addition to causing inefficiency and expense to ICE, it also negatively affects the illegal aliens because they are held apart from their families. This state and others have challenged legitimate ICE enforcement actions on the ground that it separated families. That is apparently not a consideration or concern of the state here which brings into question the veracity of its having been asserted elsewhere by alleged immigration advocates and supporters.

Of course, this proposed bill will severely affect ICE operations since that agency relies on private prisons to hold migrant detainees in the state.

This bill, if enacted, would further endanger public safety in that were ICE not to have reasonably close facilities in which to place detainees, they might not be able to take them into custody. The criminals would be released on to the streets to commit further crimes.

It is an established fact that illegal aliens in Maryland sanctuary counties commit crimes and instead of being turned over to ICE they are released and they commit further crimes.

Of course, this bill as stated, if passed, sets the stage for ICE to be blamed when dangerous illegal aliens are released back into communities as opposed to local law enforcement being held accountable for not facilitating ICE picking them up.

Thus, the non-cooperation would still exist. All residents of the county will be endangered from the poorest to most prosperous who will quickly learn that they can no longer securely function behind a virtual protective wall of position, power, and real estate barriers. Those considerations, and others which have been stated, show that this bill if passed will be thoroughly destructive to the state and suicidal to its residents.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hessie L. Harris