

Amy Waychoff
HB 0677
Opposed

My name is Amy Waychoff and I have lived in Montgomery County for over 32 years. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am opposed to HB 0677 because it would provide sanctuary to criminal illegal aliens, while failing to keep American citizens, legal immigrants, and other illegal aliens safe. This bill would build a wall between local law enforcement and ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement). This bill would be an affront to the rule of law. This bill directly contradicts statutes set forth by the U.S. Congress in the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA). And this bill violates the U.S. Constitution because it blocks the federal government from doing its job.

One of the lessons of 9/11 was a lack of information sharing and cooperation between local and federal authorities. A number of the hijackers were illegal aliens who had subverted our immigration laws. Since then, our country has made progress in correcting that fatal mistake. The INA specifically prohibits “state or local governments from barring their agencies or employees from exchanging information with ICE.” In the words of one immigration expert, “the filing of detainers, colloquially known as ‘holds,’ is a standard practice throughout U.S. law enforcement at every level. Virtually all agencies seek such assistance

from one another, knowing that if the system of cooperation breaks down, then all public safety is compromised.”**

This system of cooperation has been subverted by sanctuary legislation throughout the country. Last summer in Montgomery County, a series of heinous sex crimes perpetrated by illegal aliens against women and children shocked the nation. Just last month in NYC, a 92-year-old grandmother was brutally raped and murdered by an illegal alien. All of these crimes were 100 percent preventable. Time and time again, criminal illegal aliens are released back into the public instead of handed over to ICE. Once free, these criminals continue to commit crimes. Not surprisingly, most of these new crimes are perpetrated back in the communities in which these illegal aliens reside, *immigrant* communities. As the president of AVIAC (Advocates for Victims of Illegal Alien Crime), Don Rosenberg, wrote in his testimony, “your proposed legislation does not protect Maryland citizens, legal permanent residents, or even those here illegally who are ‘otherwise law-abiding.’ . . . The only beneficiaries of these laws are the criminals.”

Thank you.

*Dan Cadman, “Another Local Officer Under the Gun for Cooperating with ICE: This Time in Boston,” Center for Immigration Studies, November 7, 2019.

**Andrew R. Arthur, “Immigration Judicial Warrants Don’t Exist,” Center for Immigration Studies, September 17, 2019, quoting CIS colleague Dan Cadman.