

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

HB 677: Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition

Submitted by: Elizabeth Matory, Parkville MD 21234

Age: 40 Nationality: American

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Will Any of Our Testimony Matter anymore?

I used to love Annapolis. I started coming down here regularly in 2013 when I was running for state delegate (actually when Delegate Shetty ran her first race – both were running for the 18th). I thought it was such an amazing place and it would be such an honor to represent my fellow citizens here.

But I started to notice a few things that really bothered me. First, I didn't realize that only a handful of people really controlled things here. The moment that you get elected you couldn't make decisions off of discernment. You had to vote how leadership demanded. Why would anyone be a part of such a corrupt place. Then I realized only one party and its delegates really mattered. Back then I never thought I would stop being a democrat, but all I knew was that I couldn't stomach being beholden and not be able to make my own decisions and use the tools that God gave me to make the right decisions.

Why would I squander my integrity to compromise with people and a system I did not trust.

At first, I thought the issues were just with Montgomery County elected officials in 2014. Then by the end of that election cycle I saw the dishonesty of the Maryland Democratic Party after being a field organizer and decided to leave. I always thought that my former party cared about the needs of the people. It is not the people that they cared about, they only really care about the ones that can be of value to them and provide them with the power they need to rule.

Over the last four years, I thought I could get away from that mentality and try to be a different kind of representative. I left for Baltimore County thinking that it would be different but now I fear there is no jurisdiction that is safe for honest citizens to live in the State of Maryland.

Every day I am contacted by citizens who are going to testify for this bill or that bill or another bill and back again. And my initial thought is it's not worth it.

Every democrat representative does not have to think or care about what these citizens think. They ought to, but they really don't and it's clear. All of these elected officials only actually care if you can do something for them. Their vote is not their own

the moment they are elected to Annapolis. Their vote belongs to powerful and I'm not referring to the Most High.

Honestly, if you vote for all these bills that we are all against, the only advice I can give citizens is to move out of the state. Find a place where representatives actually represent your values because I fear we mean nothing to the folks in Annapolis. The laws that they have passed from 2014 through to 2020 have made it uninhabitable for Americans.

Congratulations if you are reading this far down that means that you took the time. And perhaps there is still hope for you to make the right decision. That you have the guts to think of and vote for the citizens first and not for the powerbrokers in the state.

Please pray before you vote for any of these bills.