

Edward L. Burrell
Curious Taxpayers of Frederick County
burrell.edward1228@gmail.com
301-810-5775

HB 677- FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As Convener of Frederick Curious Taxpayers, I am writing concerning the HB677 Bill (Dignity Not Detention Act).

Our organization ,The Curious Taxpayers of Frederick County, is a small group of mainly retired professionals, Who have been quite concerned about the treatment and lack of outreach by our County and City Governments to our Hispanic neighbors. Our Group includes, Teachers, Doctors, CPA's, scientists, ministers among several other professions. Our objective has been to secure respect for the Hispanic population in Frederick by our elected officials particularly by law enforcement. Our membership is approximately 23 citizens not including many others who attend our meetings and join us in sympathy of our objective

We have reviewed HB677 and have found it very much in line with our objectives. We are disappointed that we need to legislate dignity, but as you have outlined in the bill, enforcement actions, racism and misinformation in our state is at that point where immigrants have now become one of our vulnerable populations. We are finding Hispanic immigrants in our community now living in fear of unlawful actions by our County Sheriff to such an extent, they are unable to function as a normal resident. Despite court decisions regarding the rights of these residents, we are continuing to find enforcement actions contrary to both court findings and constitutional law. Our elected officials should be those leading the lawful and well-being support of Immigrants, but because of political fear and a lack of empathy, Groups such ours have had to take the lead. HB 677 will provide our local elected officials with unambiguous clarification of what is required of them.

We urge a favorable report on HB 677

Edward L. Burrell
Convener