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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB750  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL – RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN IMMIGRATION  
PROCEEDINGS COORDINATOR**

My name is Phyllis Oresky, and I have been a Maryland resident for 61 years, in District 22 for four of them. I am writing to you today in support of HB750.

On a personal note, my grandparents came to this country from Europe as immigrants, and my Jewish faith teaches me to “love your neighbor as yourself” and to treat every human being with respect and dignity, regardless of their country of origin. I am a member of Mishkan Torah Synagogue in Greenbelt, and a core team member of Bend the Arc Prince George’s County Minyan, and we work to better the lives of all Americans and all Marylanders, no matter what their race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or place of birth.

Everyone should be eligible for legal representation and the right to counsel in Maryland and in every state of these United States. “Justice, justice shall you pursue,” is from our Torah and it means justice for everyone. If someone is detained, even outside of Maryland, legal representation should be available. Families of those detained should be allowed counsel, and HB750 would afford immigrants and those detained to that representation under the law, as well as to have connections with organizations to help them get the best possible advice.

Please, stand up for the fundamental principle of a just system in which all individuals are granted representation and the opportunity to make their case fully, regardless of the privileges or lack thereof that they were born into, and support this important legislation. I urge you to support HB750 and respectfully urge a favorable report on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Oresky