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FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest.



FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

February 11, 2022

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Clippinger and other distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of concerned individuals who believe that our immigration laws must be reformed to serve our nation’s interests.

FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment.

Founded in 1979, FAIR has three million members and supporters nationwide including approximately 12,300 in Maryland. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR’s support for House Bill (HB) 756.

HB 756 ensures the well-being and safety of American citizens and legal immigrants in their own communities by handing over dangerous criminal aliens to the Department of Homeland Security’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for removal instead of releasing them back into the community to recommit crimes.

HB 756 focuses on the worst of the worst criminal aliens – those who have already been convicted for aggravated felonies or participating in criminal gang activity, or who are suspected of terrorism or endangering national security. There is no reason such proven dangerous criminals should be allowed to remain in Maryland, or anywhere in the United States, where they can continue to reoffend and victimize people.

Communities that shield criminal aliens from removal experience more crimes. For example, in Orange County, California, two years after the state passed its sanctuary law, the sheriff’s office was forced to release more than 1,500 aliens with ICE detainers back onto the streets. More than 400 of those same aliens were rearrested with charges including rape, assault with a deadly



weapon, child sex offenses, domestic violence and driving under the influence. Every single one of those crimes was preventable because none of those criminals should have still been in the United States.

Moreover, HB 756 ensures that criminal aliens will not be shielded from removal to needlessly endanger innocent lives. There are roughly three million criminal aliens living in the United States, and nearly one million of these aliens have final orders of removal.¹ These criminals should not be able to continue to live in communities and engage in further criminal activity.

Further, it is no secret that Americans face serious threats from terrorist organizations. With the FBI pursuing hundreds of active extremist investigations, federal agents are stretched thin and depend heavily on intelligence provided by state and local law enforcement. By cooperating with federal immigration officials, this bill will create an environment where terrorists and other criminal aliens will not go undetected and uninterrupted.

ICE has just 20,000 employees, only half of whom are dedicated to the apprehension and removal of illegal aliens. The cooperation of state and local law enforcement, which number about 900,000 strong, is a force multiplier vital to ferreting out those among us who wish to cause us harm. At least five of the 9/11 hijackers were illegal aliens, four of whom came into contact with state and local law enforcement several times before the attacks, in some cases just days prior to the attack.² If those state and local law enforcement officers had worked with federal immigration officials, the 9/11 terrorist plot might have been thwarted.

HB 756 tells the worst criminal aliens that law enforcement and other government officials will not ignore the danger they pose to their communities. This bill helps ensure that state and local law enforcement agencies will not have to overlook immigration violations that harm their communities.

For these reasons, FAIR supports HB 756 and urges a favorable report. I thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, if I may be of assistance. I may be reached by email at srendall@fairus.org or by phone at 202-328-7004.

Sincerely,



Shari Rendall

¹ The Washington Examiner, "ICE: 950,000 Illegals With 'Removal Orders', Raids Get Just A Sliver, Feb 20, 2017

²² CNN, "Another Hijacker Was Stopped for Traffic Violation, January 9, 2002

