



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

June 24, 2024
Governor Wes Moore
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore,

The tragic and unnecessary death of Rachel Morin has profoundly impacted our community. She was a mother who was brutally raped and murdered by an illegal alien from El Salvador, a violent criminal with a prior warrant for murder who should have never been in the country in the first place.

Unfortunately, this horrific crime is not an isolated incident. It follows other high-profile crimes committed by individuals unlawfully present in our State. Mere months ago, a man from Nicaragua, also here illegally, stole a Maryland State Highway tow truck, leading to a dangerous chase and several hit-and-run accidents. Last week, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials arrested a Salvadoran citizen in Maryland for sexually abusing a young family member. This individual had been previously convicted of sexually abusing a minor.

The Baltimore field office for ICE **leads the nation** in the arrest of criminal pedophiles. Homeland Security reports that over 617,000 criminal aliens are currently at large in America. Recently, it has come to light that an Uzbek national with ties to ISIS was arrested after residing in Maryland for nearly two years.

It is self-evident that we have a significant issue to address. During a recent "Face the Nation" appearance, you concurred with Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler's statement about our precarious situation. He noted, "**We are 1,800 miles from the southern border, and American citizens are not safe due to failed immigration policies.**" Maryland's sanctuary policies are prohibiting counties from detaining inmates and transferring them to ICE. Because of these failing policies, at least two child sex offenders in Baltimore County were released back into the community last year, the very community where their victims live.

We commend you and fully support your assertion that "the consequences of these failed policies fall directly on the leaders of our jurisdictions." We stand with you and are ready to support **your efforts to make Maryland safer.**

Marylanders need your leadership on this matter. Law enforcement and elected officials need clarification regarding Maryland's current sanctuary state policy toward undocumented immigrants. This confusion stems from guidance issued by former Attorney General Frosh. Local law enforcement is advised that they are not permitted to hold non-citizens specifically for an ICE detainer. Still, no law prohibits law enforcement from notifying ICE before releasing a suspect from their facility.

We request that you provide clear instructions and support to local jurisdictions and law enforcement to contact ICE and ensure that ICE is given at least four hours of notice when an undocumented immigrant with an active detainer is being

released back into the community. This is a modest but vital measure in improving the safety of all Maryland residents.

As leaders and lawmakers of our State, we have the opportunity to enhance the safety of our citizens through proactive measures.

The 2025 legislative session presents an opportunity to re-evaluate the "Dignity Not Detention" law enacted in 2021. This law bans Maryland counties from holding those criminals arrested by ICE at any of our local correctional facilities. It is essential to recognize that ICE arrests are still occurring in Maryland. However, with the passage of that legislation, **taxpayers are funding the transportation** of these individuals out of State, sometimes as far as Florida, on commercial flights.

Governor, we urge your support in reconsidering this law. The Maryland legislature passed the bill on the assumption that ICE is arresting people solely for deportation. This is just not true. ICE officers are looking for the worst of the worst: the drug dealers, murderers, gang members, sex offenders, and pedophiles who should not be roaming our streets, free to commit crimes. The safety of our communities is paramount and should not be compromised. By encouraging local law enforcement and local governments to collaborate with ICE and supporting the reversal of the "Dignity not Detention" bill, we can take essential steps towards ensuring the safety and security of Maryland's citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you on the concrete steps you will take to address criminal undocumented immigrants in Maryland. Other governors have taken various actions because, as you admit, congress is failing to do so. We look forward to seeing action on these critical issues. We are ready to help in every way that we can in this effort.

Sincerely,


Delegate Matt Morgan


Delegate Lauren Arian


Delegate Robin Grammer


Delegate Kathy Szeliga


Delegate Mark Fisher

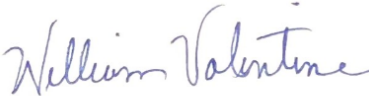

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