



Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee

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HB 1292 State and Local Correctional Facilities - Release - Notification of Immigration Status

HB 1298 Baltimore County - Release From Local Correctional Facilities - Notification of Immigration Status

OPPOSE

The ACLU of Maryland opposes HB 1292 and HB 1298. HB 1292 would require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services or the managing official of a correctional facility (DPSCS) to notify DHS 10 days prior to releasing an undocumented person from a correctional facility. HB 1298 would make these measures applicable to Baltimore County.

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Under these bills, local facilities would notify DHS about a releasee's immigration status, even if the person was being held pretrial and was not convicted of any offense. Between 2008 – 2014, over 43% of persons deported from Maryland under the Secure Communities program had no criminal convictions of any kind. An additional 33% had convictions only for minor offenses.¹ These deportations have a negative impact on Maryland's working families and children because they penalize individuals who are living and working peacefully in our communities, sometimes for years or even decades, simply because they have been detained, however briefly and for whatever reason.

Moreover, the mechanisms described in HB 1292 and HB 1298 waste local resources and impose needless costs that are not reimbursed by the federal government. They basically shift the burden of federal immigration enforcement efforts onto our local agencies.

For the foregoing reasons, the ACLU of Maryland urges an unfavorable report on HB 1292 and HB 1298.

¹ ICE Interoperability Statistics through May 31, 2013, http://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/sc-stats/nationwide_interop_stats-fy2013-to-date.pdf.