

State of Maryland

Commission on Civil Rights



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The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) is charged by the Governor and General Assembly with promoting and improving civil rights in Maryland. It is our mission as the State's lead civil rights agency to uphold the values inherent in the Constitution of both the United States and Maryland. The Commission enforces Maryland's anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts for all based on their race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, genetic information, or familial status. Beyond that, MCCR partners with government, business, and localities in order to dismantle all vestiges of hate and bias that prevent communities from growing and benefiting from the opportunities they deserve.

Today, many immigrants in our communities feel a sense of being unwelcomed in the United States. There are approximately 250,000 immigrants (4% of the State's population) living in Maryland and working in our educational, medical, and other fields across both the public and private sectors. They come from every faith, culture, economic, and educational background.

We at MCCR know that our State benefits directly from the gifted, remarkable, and talented immigrants who study, research, and teach at schools in the University of Maryland Medical System, University of Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University, and numerous other world-renowned institutions. Many of the best and brightest stay here after their studies to give back to our State. Many other committed, hardworking individuals dedicate their lives to fishing, crabbing, and farming industries – industries that are the economic hallmark of Maryland and make us a truly wonderful state.

While recognizing that the need exists to enforce laws that properly safeguard the country, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights is deeply troubled by the climate of fear and uncertainty that exists today among Maryland's immigrant community, and its resulting impact on upholding public safety. Many vulnerable individuals are afraid to leave their homes, go to work, seek medical care, send their children to school, or cooperate with law enforcement agencies in ongoing investigations of crimes for fear they will be deported. Only together can we loosen fear's grip and achieve our vision of a Maryland that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights wants to assure everyone in the State of Maryland that our commitment to equality, justice, and mutual respect will not waver, and we encourage all who believe in equality and opportunity to join us in pursuit of this mission.

If you believe you are a victim of unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, or state contracts, we urge you to contact the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights immediately to inquire about filing a complaint.