



Are there any comprehensive immigration reform legislative or policy proposals which you support that would strengthen the opportunities and rights of Caribbean immigrants in Maryland, absent any action by the Federal Government?

Our diversity is our strength. As Governor, I will work to make sure that, regardless of what happens in Washington, D.C., Maryland is a state that welcomes immigrants from all countries and backgrounds who want to come to the United States to give their families a better and safer future. I believe that we have a moral obligation – one that is woven into the fabric of our American values – to be as accepting and welcoming as possible to new immigrants.

In the past, along with the law firm I led, Venable LLP, we have prioritized providing services to immigrants. For example, we have routinely provided representation to those who are seeking asylum.

As Governor, I will ensure that Maryland's laws and priorities regarding immigrants' rights are fair. I will work to pass a new version of the Trust Act. Having our local and state police serve as the federal government's enforcement corrodes the important trust between the communities and police. Our immigrant communities should feel comfortable going to local and state police with their problems, or to cooperate with an investigation. The state and local law enforcement resources should not be used to enforce federal immigration laws. On the national level, unlike Larry Hogan, I will use the position of the Governor's Office and the microphone that comes with it to advocate on behalf of immigrant communities.

What is your position regarding the DACA situation?

President Trump's decision to end DACA, and Republicans' failure to pass a bill, are disturbing. I fully support DACA. These immigrants who came to the United States as children should be given a pathway to citizenship. In Maryland, I was fully supportive of the DREAM Act we passed that granted in-state tuition to Dreamers. As Chair of the University System of Maryland at the time, I oversaw its implementation. That law has provided more students with the opportunity to continue their education and flourish. As Governor, I will continue to look for new ways to protect Dreamers.

The State of Maryland is now more diverse than it was in the past. What will be your policies to ensure that first responders i.e.—the police, mobile crisis team, EMS and fire fighters - are culturally competent to interact with this diverse population?

As Governor, I will work to implement a plan that ensures that all first responders are culturally competent to interact with every population that calls Maryland home. They should all receive racial bias and anti-racism training. Police officers should also be specially trained in community policing techniques, including de-escalation, with the possibility in mind that there may be language or cultural differences between the first responder and the resident. Finally, I will work to use new technologies to limit the language barriers between the first responders and residents that may lead to unnecessarily tense and uneasy circumstances.

The Caribbean is a strong trading partner of the U.S., and there are opportunities to create economic benefits for both the State of Maryland and Caribbean residents. Will you support strengthening business, social and cultural relations and exchanges between Maryland residents and the Caribbean, and if so how?

Yes, I fully support strengthening business and cultural relations between Maryland residents and the Caribbean. The Governor of Maryland often takes international trips to develop economic relationships throughout the world. My administration will look for opportunities to increase our engagement with Caribbean countries to identify possible deals that will strengthen both the state of Maryland and Caribbean countries.

How will you improve and maintain regular outreach and communication with your Caribbean constituents throughout your term?

As Governor, I will routinely hold town halls and meetings across the state so that all Marylanders, including those from the Caribbean-American community, have the opportunity to have their voices heard. As I am engaging with constituents who may prefer to speak another language, I will make sure that we have the proper translation infrastructure present. Further, as Governor, my door will be open to Marylanders who have priorities they want addressed. I will always welcome people, including Caribbean constituents, to come and discuss the issues that are most important to them.

The Affordable Care Act is under attack by the Federal Government. What will your government do in light of this to provide health care to Maryland's most vulnerable residents?

As long as Republicans in Washington, D.C. try to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, states like Maryland must diligently work to resist these efforts and expand access to quality and affordable health care. At the federal level, I believe we are moving towards a single payer system – which will expand access to all of Maryland's most vulnerable residents. At the state level, however, I have worked with each of the interested parties in our health care system – patients, doctors, hospitals, and insurers. I will bring each of these entities to the table to identify ways to expand access to affordable and quality health care for vulnerable Marylanders. I think one way to do that is to work to expand access to primary care

physicians, who can work to institute healthier practices and develop a relationship with patients who otherwise would have to rely on hospitals.

Gun violence has long been a concern for Americans, wherever they are. If you become governor, what will your government do to minimize to prospects of gun violence in Maryland?

As Governor, I will make sure that Maryland is a safe place to live for all of its citizens. In 2013, the state of Maryland made significant steps to improve its gun safety laws, including an assault weapons ban and a magazine limit. The fact remains that, in Maryland, about 60% of firearms seized by police come from out of state. I will be a national leader in advocating for federal reforms that mirror what we have here in Maryland, including strident background checks and an assault weapons ban. Further, there are some steps we can still take in Maryland. As Governor, I will make it a felony, not a misdemeanor, to illegally carry a loaded firearm. I will also work to institute a requirement that at least one model of a smart gun must be sold at stores that sell guns.

When located in urban or low-income settings, schools can be a war zone. And with the ever-increasing issue of school violence, what are your plans to ensure that schools remain a safe haven for our children?

This past legislative session, the General Assembly took some positive steps to ensure that our children are safe in our schools. The “red flag” legislation is a very positive development in ensuring that family members or friends can have the authorities seize guns from a person who they believe presents a threat. However, in order to keep our children safe from violence in their schools, we need to continue to advocate for stricter gun violence prevention laws at the federal level, including an assault weapons ban.

Seasonal / migrant agricultural workers ---- migrant farm labor play a key role, chiefly in vegetable and fruit harvesting. Caribbean-origin migrant farm workers, principally Haitians and Jamaicans have diversified the seasonal agricultural workforce over the years. These workers have played a vital role in labor-intensive agriculture. There have been ongoing concerns over migrant children and healthcare for the migrant population as well as housing. What are your plans to address this issue?

As Governor, I will ensure that migrant workers and migrant children have resources they need. They should have access to quality health care and an education that puts them on the road to opportunity. Further, seasonal agriculture workers are some of the most vulnerable laborers in our economy, and as Governor, I will be their partner. They have the same right to a living wage and a healthy workplace that other workers have, but they disproportionately face discrimination, sexual harassment, and unsafe work environments. I pledge to make sure that agriculture workers of all backgrounds go to work every day with the peace of mind that comes with knowing their state government is in their corner.

Marcus Mosiah Garvey, a Jamaican, was unjustly imprisoned by the American Government inThere Caribbean community is seeking a posthumous pardon from the President of

the United States on behalf of his family, and the wider community itself. As governor, will you be prepared to support this effort, and if so, how?

Marcus Garvey played an important role in the advancement of civil rights in the United States. If the President decides to issue a posthumous pardon, I would support such a move.

Caribbean persons have contributed greatly to the fabric of America. Are you in favor of including a Caribbean based lesson plan in Maryland's social studies curriculum?

As Governor, I will support a school curriculum that highlights the rich diversity of our state and country and the valuable contributions from all communities, including those from the Caribbean.

In your political career, what accomplishment are you most proud of, and why?

I am not a career politician. However, I do have a long career leading large public and private organizations in Maryland. The most fulfilling professional experience of my career was when I served as Chair of the Empower Baltimore Management Corporation (EBMC). The EBMC was a \$350 million federal program that worked to drive economic opportunity to communities in East and West Baltimore. We provided capital, as well as training, to small businesses across the city to create good-paying jobs in distressed neighborhoods. The effort had its successes, and a revolving loan program still exists today from the program that provides capital to help Baltimore businesses grow.