

I support HB0304, State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement (Trust Act), Judiciary Committee, Del. Fisher, W.

Ending any police partnerships with ICE and federal agencies helps those in the immigrant community, to be sure, but it also helps ALL Marylanders. Why? Immigrant community members who may be undocumented or live with undocumented family members are VERY hesitant to report crime.

These aren't just words...this is TRUE. I have personally heard undocumented residents talk about crimes that they have not reported. Some right after the crime. Of course, I want to encourage them to talk to the police, but I know they should not. I want to call the police for them, but I know this would endanger them. On some occasions, I have encouraged them, but they have chosen not to. They are too scared. These are crimes that are and can be committed against ALL Marylanders. And so, what happens? The criminal - and the crimes - will continue, as the criminal knows he can get away with it.

Additionally, immigrants - both those with documents and those without provide many services that most Marylanders benefit from. The vast majority pay taxes. And yet, because of the fear of deportation or themselves or someone in their family unit, they become distrustful of services available to other Marylanders that might be able to help them. Rendering needed services to immigrants is not just a humane act, but, in the end, it helps the entire community. Let's take the example of COVID. If an immigrant fears getting a vaccine or is sick and fears going to a health clinic or a hospital, then this increases community spread.

Please support the TRUST act.

Respectfully,

Renee Cantori
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