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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB901

State and Local Government- Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Jerry Kickenson

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 901, Criminal Procedure - Civil Immigration Enforcement - Restrictions. As a Jew, my sacred text and tradition teach us to welcome the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Leviticus 19:34 explicitly instructs us to treat the immigrant in our land the same as native citizens.

SB901 would prohibit law enforcement from collaborating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) without a judicial warrant. This bill would prohibit police from inquiring about immigration status during stops. A clear policy like this will increase trust in Maryland's immigrant community, leading to better reporting of crime and making us all safer. In my community, a legal resident did not report an auto break-in for fear of interacting with the police, because she had an undocumented family member. I want her, and all Maryland residents, to feel safe and not hesitate to aid police in preventing and solving crimes. Our local and state police have enough to do keeping Maryland safe without adding enforcement of federal immigration law.

[Studies have repeatedly shown](#) that immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, commit less crime than native born citizens. [Studies have also shown](#) that jurisdictions with policies and laws like SB901 have lower crime rates than those without.

This bill would not put Maryland at risk of retribution from the federal government in the form of reduced or retracted funding. [Legal precedent clearly prohibits the federal government from such actions.](#) Jurisdictions such as California, Chicago, and most recently [Philadelphia](#), have all won rulings in federal court preventing the federal government from doing so.

I strongly urge you to reach a favorable report for SB901. It will increase all Maryland residents' trust in police, making us all safer. It will align Maryland law with our Attorney General's guidelines. It is the right thing to do.