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THINK JEWISHLY. ACT LOCALLY.

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: Margie Simon, on behalf of Jews United for Justice

My name is Margie Simon, I am a resident of Baltimore County's District 11 and I am submitting testimony in favor of Senate Bill 901 on behalf of Jews United For Justice (JUFJ). JUFJ organizes nearly 5,000 Jewish Marylanders and allies in support of local campaigns for social, racial, and economic justice.

Exodus 22:20 says "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." My grandparents were also strangers in the United States. Because of my heritage, both as a Jew and as the grandchild of immigrants, I know that we need to work to ensure that people not born in this country are able to get help from the police without worrying that they could be deported or separated from their families. We must pass SB901.

In addition to the moral imperative to pass this bill, it is also legally the right thing to do to avoid violating our fellow Marylanders' rights. Roxana Santos was eating lunch in October 2008 when two sheriff's deputies questioned her immigration status and subsequently arrested her. She sued, and in September 2018 a judge ruled that her arrest was illegal because it violated Santos's Fourth Amendment rights. SB901 will prevent law enforcement from collaborating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), except when presented with a judicial warrant. It will also codify the recommendations that the Maryland Attorney General made in his December 2018 guidance memorandum.

SB901 would have no impact on any kind of criminal investigation. What it would do is ensure that no one living in Maryland, regardless of their immigration status, would have to fear being deported or being separated from their family while going about daily life. As a Jew and as descendants of immigrants, **we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB901.**