

Testimony in Support of SB88(HB304) - State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

To: Senator Will Smith, Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Richard Kohn, Ph.D, Columbia, MD, 21045 (RichardAKohn@gmail.com)

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Please support SB88 (Trust Act) which limits the partnership between Maryland's local and state law enforcement agencies and the U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Local and State Police must work with all members of the community to ensure public safety. It is not their job to enforce US immigration policies, and especially not to work with an organization that engages in racist terroristic activity. All members of the community, including immigrants and foreign visitors, must be encouraged to go to the police if they witness a crime or are a victim of crime. If certain groups of people do not feel safe in seeking protection from the police, they may be forced to defend themselves or seek help from criminal gangs, which leads to more crime. The police should not be trying to enforce federal immigration policies by working with ICE because it will erode the trust of foreign visitors and immigrants in working with the police.

Please pass SB88.

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