

Jonathan Rochkind
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Dear Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing as Maryland resident of district 43, to testify in **support of Maryland Senate Bill 88, the Maryland Trust Act.**

The MD Trust Act will limit the state's cooperation and partnership with ICE and other federal agencies that enforce immigration laws. If passed, the Trust Act will make our communities safer by improving residents' relationships with law enforcement and other state entities and civic institutions.

There is no reason for local law enforcement to be concerned with immigration violations. It is no crime to be born on the "wrong" side of a border, and seek a life in our country. Immigration violations are generally civil infractions, and those in violation do not in fact pose any kind of threat to public safety. So it is a misallocation of state and local law enforcement resources to spend any dollars at all on aiding with federal immigration enforcement.

Worse, by destroying trust between law enforcement and immigrants, law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration enforcement **makes all of us less safe.** All of us, wherever we were born and whatever our immigration status, deserve safety. When some people are afraid to report crimes or to interact with law enforcement and are forced into the shadows of society avoid interacting with authorities and institutions, we are **all** less safe. In fact, research has shown that in places that have laws like SB0088 in place, crime has gone down. This is the natural result of not forcing people into the shadows. It is past time that we ended this shameful and counter-productive collaboration.

I myself am a US citizen, but I am recognize that my own safety depends on the safety of all my neighbors. Please vote in support of the Maryland Trust Act (Senate Bill 88).

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rochkind
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