



Support for Maryland Trust Act SB88/HB304

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We write as members of a new organization, the Montgomery County Progressive Asian American Network (MoCoPAAN), to strongly support the Maryland Trust Act (SB88/HB304).

The MoCoPAAN's mission is to raise the visibility of Asian Americans through lifting up progressive voices and strengthening allyship through strategic communications. In doing so, we wish to demonstrate that Asian Americans have a multitude of voices. We speak out on issues that affect people of diverse backgrounds: representation, equity and inclusion; immigrant rights; and, racial discrimination, racial and profiling, and anti-Black racism. As such, we believe that it is imperative to disentangle MD government services, including policing, from immigration enforcement and to forbid government employees from inquiring into people's immigration status.

Along with nearly one-third of all immigrants in Maryland, Asian American communities in our state are directly affected by this legislation.

Over 35,000 Marylanders are undocumented Asian immigrants, constituting more than 1 in 8 of undocumented immigrants in the state. These groups face multiple language barriers, lack of culturally competent legal services, and limited capacity among Asian immigrant-serving community organizations make undocumented Asians vulnerable to detention and deportation

We urge you to support SB88/HB304 to strengthen our communities.

