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AND PACIFIC ISLANDER CAUCUS  
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March 3, 2021

**To:** Maryland General Assembly House Judiciary Committee  
**Bill:** HB304  
**Bill Name:** State and Local Government – Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement  
**Position:** Support

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, and Judiciary Committee Members,

The Maryland Legislative Asian-American and Pacific-Islander (AAPI) Caucus is made up of Senators and Delegates in the General Assembly who seek to represent the interests of the AAPI communities in Maryland. As the fastest-growing racial minority group in the US, it is crucial that the legislative goals of AAPI individuals and communities are well-represented in Maryland public policy. Thank you for allowing the Caucus the opportunity to express our support of HB304.

HB304 (State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement), known publicly as the Trust Act, is a bill that centers around the relationship that law enforcement has with ICE. This bill would not only have a tremendous influence on the overall public safety in Maryland, but would make Maryland a welcoming state for all immigrants - including the thousands of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in Maryland who are often excluded from the broader conversation on immigration reform.

HB304 would 1) end police cooperation and partnership with ICE, including 287g programs, 2) create policies around ICE access to sensitive locations such as schools, courthouses, and hospitals, 3) protect immigrants from coercion to ensure that the community members can interact with police without fear of harassment, and 4) stop law enforcement agencies from inquiring to, transferring to, notifying for, or detaining for ICE.

According to the latest available estimates, there are approximately 1.7 million Asian undocumented immigrants in the United States. About 1 out of every 7 immigrants are undocumented. Recent data from Migration Policy Institute shows that the Asian undocumented population has more than tripled within 15 years (in contrast, the Mexican undocumented population grew by only 21% during the same time period). Undocumented immigrants come from all over Asia (predominately India, China, Philippines, South Korea, and Vietnam).

Attacks on Asian Americans have soared over the last year, and like many other Black and Latino immigrants, they also are deeply affected by ICE's actions here in Maryland. Maryland is home to over 415,000 Asian Americans making up approximately 7% of the population - and there are approximately 35,000 undocumented Asian immigrants living in Maryland.

The Trust Act would be a tremendous step forward in protecting Asian immigrants - and the greater community of immigrants of colors without status.

The AAPI Caucus urges a favorable vote on HB304.