

Larisse Tientcheu, Testimony in SUPPORT of HB304

State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement
House Judiciary Committee

March 3, 2021

Dear Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly:

My name is Larisse Tientcheu. I am an immigrant from Cameroon. I live in Washington, D.C. with my family and have lived there for four years. Although I do not live in Maryland, I am writing because I would like you to pass the Maryland Trust Act.

The Maryland Trust Act is very important to me. I want to share a personal experience. I drive in Maryland, and one time in 2018 when driving from my house to school, I saw a police car stop an immigrant. The police officers arrested the person because they said he looked suspicious. But I think maybe the officers targeted him because he was an immigrant. I felt so sad and I felt like I couldn't trust any police.

To improve our lives and community, we need the Maryland Trust Act because it is important for people to live without fear. All people, including immigrants, should be able to drive on the road and know that the police will respect our dignity. We shouldn't be judged at first sight.

Please consider my testimony and the importance of the Maryland Trust Act for all immigrant families in the DMV. Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience with you and for representing all immigrants and hearing our voices.

Sincerely,

Larisse Tientcheu

Resident of Washington, D.C.