



**SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL**  
1410 Bush Street, Suite F, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 304**  
**State and Local Government – Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement**  
**(The TRUST Act)**

House Judiciary Committee

March 3, 2021

1:30 PM

Presented to: Luke Clippinger, Chairman

By: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council urges a **Favorable Report to HB 304.**

SEIU is the largest union in North America. We unite workers in health care, public service, including public education, and property services to improve lives and the services we provide. We represent over 50,000 workers in the Maryland/DC/Virginia region. Many of our members are recent immigrants and live in communities of immigrants. Ever since our founding, by a group of immigrants in Chicago in 1921, our union has fought for the dignity of all workers, no matter of country of origin or immigration status.

By passing HB 304, the Maryland General Assembly can break the bond between local law enforcement and the federal government's immigration enforcement. It would be made clear that it is not the role of local law enforcement to enforce federal law. It also would reverse a practice that has undermined and made more difficult the job of local law enforcement by creating distrust between police and the communities they have sworn to protect. If local police are seen as enforcers of immigration law, families are less likely to trust and aid police in enforcing local laws.

Maryland should demand the federal government pass comprehensive, common-sense and long-overdue immigration reform.

**We ask a Favorable Report on HB 304. Thank you.**

