

Arielle Juberg
Baltimore, Maryland
District 8

Testimony in Support of Bill HB0304, State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

To: Chair Clippinger and members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Arielle Juberg

My name is Arielle Juberg. I am a resident of Baltimore County in District 8. I belong to Showing Up for Racial Justice in Baltimore and Casa de Maryland's Ally Network.

I am testifying in support of HB0304 State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement. I believe that police officers in Maryland should not ask about citizenship status or detain or transfer people to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). I am writing this testimony out of deep concern for immigrant communities in Maryland and to increase public safety in this state.

Many counties and individual towns in Maryland have already implemented this type of legislation. We know from their experiences that this legislation is possible. In fact, we know that counties that do not partner with ICE see improved public safety. When people don't have to fear discriminatory questions and the threat of immigration enforcement, they are much more likely to call the police and report crime. They are more likely to cooperate with police investigations. We cannot have safe communities if residents are afraid to work with police officers.

I am especially concerned about the impact of immigration detention on domestic violence. An undocumented person experiencing physical, mental, or emotional violence may be extremely reluctant to contact the police. Would you reach out for help, if the response included the possibility of being detained yourself in an immigration detention facility? This legislation will ensure that people reach out for help when they most need it.

I want to live in a community where people feel safe contacting the police. I want to live in a state where local police focus on local issues – not federal immigration policy. For all these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report for HB0304 so that Maryland is a safer place for all residents.