



**Legislative Committee/Immigration Issues Team  
Columbia Democratic Club  
Testimony on State and Local Government - Participation in Federal  
Immigration Enforcement**

**HB304/SB88**

**Bill Sponsors:** Senator: Will Smith, Delegate: Wanika Fisher

**Committees:** Judicial Proceedings and Judiciary

**Persons Submitting:** Meagan Braganca, Legislative Chair Columbia Democratic Club

**Position:** Favorable

Dear Chairs Smith and Clippinger and Members of the Judicial Proceedings and Judiciary Committees,

The Columbia Democratic Club Immigration Team requests your support of HB30/SB88 (Trust Act) which limits Maryland's enforcement of federal immigration law and collaboration with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE).

The Columbia Democratic Club is the oldest and most active Democratic organization in Howard County, reaching more than 500 Maryland residents committed to electing Democratic candidates and advancing policy ideas. (<https://www.facebook.com/columbiademclub/>)

HB304/SB88 will prevent law enforcement agents from inquiring about immigration status, and notifying, transferring, and detaining immigrants on behalf of ICE. This bill will help Maryland's police officers earn the trust of the immigrant community and lead to greater cooperation between immigrants and law enforcement, making everyone in Maryland safer. Protection of immigrants in "sensitive areas" will promote greater compliance with the court system, more access to health care and more school attendance, leading to a healthier more educated population to the benefit of everyone in Maryland.

Immigrant communities in Maryland and nationwide have long endured discrimination, hate crimes, and injustice. For years we have let our immigrant neighbors, particularly those of Latinx origin or Muslim faith, feel targeted, and threatened. ICE's openly racist policies and

cruel practices such as separating families, have terrorized our immigrant communities. Your support of this bill will send a message that racism and xenophobia are unacceptable in Maryland and will let immigrants know that they are safe to work with the police and access public services that their taxes support.

We need a true partnership between local law enforcement and the community to keep our neighborhoods safe. That partnership cannot exist if a sizable portion of the community is afraid to contact the police. This bill will make all of our communities safer and it will ensure that our police officers are not asked to participate in an inhumane system.

The Columbia Democratic Club Immigration Team urges you to pass HB304/SB88 and create a safer, more inclusive Maryland.

Please support State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement – HB304/SB88

**The Columbia Democratic Club Immigration Team urges you to pass HB16/SB478 as written and create a safer, more inclusive Maryland.**

Columbia Democratic Club Immigration Team

Jake Burdett, President

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*Columbia Democratic Club*