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Testimony Concerning: HB304/SB088 TRUST ACT

March 3, 2021

Judiciary Committee Hearing

Position: SUPPORT

Honorable Judiciary Committee Members

I am writing as an individual Marylander who has lived here for more than 30 years, who has been a Public-School Teacher for most of that time, and also as an advocate for Immigrant Rights (without any particular allegiance to an Organization), and having worked on past Legislation regarding the same and other human rights issues.

As a Teacher, I have come to know and regard many of my immigrant children and their families with high regard. For the most part I have found that they are particularly eager to work hard, do well in school, and have strong family ties and values (the same ones we often hear of people wanting to aspire to). I have also found the immigrant people in my work with them and as my neighbors and friends to be especially compassionate people and willing to help others, as they have been through many hardships themselves. I believe and hope you share my

views that they deserve to be treated with dignity no matter their status as a citizen.

Immigration issues are complicated and while these things are being sorted out in the Courts and through the regular process of Government, I believe we should leave it out of the hands of the Police and other agencies not especially equipped to oversee these matters. Therefore, I would like to see the Trust Act be passed for the following reasons:

It would restore trust in law enforcement, making it easier to report crimes against immigrants and the general public, making it safer for everyone.

It would stop the expenditure of time and money without the burden on resources without endangering anyone because those who commit crimes would still be held accountable.

It would reduce human suffering by making sure that those who are innocent of any crime (other than merely seeking asylum) would not needlessly be afraid.

It would show that in all of Maryland we are a People who believe that certain people in society should not be targeted because of Race, Ethnicity, or unfortunate circumstance.

It is very easy to see by the many jurisdictions that have already passed similar legislation that the people of Maryland heartily agree that this is the right thing to do and the right time to do it.

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