

Testimony in Support of HB304 (SB88) - State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

To: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Alex Kohn, Columbia, MD, 21045 (alex.kohn76@gmail.com)

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Please support HB304 (Trust Act) which limits the partnership between Maryland's local and state law enforcement agencies and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), including 287g agreements. HB304 also requires the Attorney General to develop guidelines for schools, hospitals and courthouses to establish policies that limit civil immigration enforcement on their premises thus making these facilities safe and accessible to all.

Continuing to work with ICE is damaging to our whole society. It causes fear in the residents of Maryland and undermines any relationship left between law enforcement and the community. It opens the doorway for exploitation, violence, and inhumane treatment both by those who take advantage of people forced to live in fear of ICE and by ICE themselves. Since their creation, ICE has been enacting terrifying policies that are inhumane and racist, and there is no evidence or expectation that this will change with the Biden administration.

Both our immigration and our criminal justice systems need extensive overhaul. One way to begin is by disentangling the systems of mass incarceration we currently have in place. In Maryland we cannot control ICE's inhumane practices, but we do not have to assist them. By separating these systems, we will greatly improve relations between communities and local police, creating a more safe Maryland for all.

Please support HB304.

Thank you,

Alex Kohn