

Maureen Wambui

7827 Rolling View Ave

Nottingham, MD, 21236

Maureen.w.m.2030@gmail.com

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The Honorable Members of the House Committee

Maryland General Assembly

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Testimony in Opposition to HB1222 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1222, which mandates the detention and transfer of certain undocumented individuals to federal immigration authorities. While I recognize the importance of public safety, this bill raises serious concerns about its potential to erode trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement, encourage racial profiling, and create fear among law-abiding residents.

This bill would have harmful consequences for immigrant families and communities by:

- **Undermining Public Trust** – Many immigrants, including victims and witnesses of crimes, may hesitate to report crimes or cooperate with law enforcement out of fear of immigration consequences. This will make our communities less safe.
- **Encouraging Racial Profiling** – By mandating cooperation with federal immigration authorities, this bill increases the likelihood of discrimination and wrongful detentions, disproportionately impacting Black and Brown immigrant communities.
- **Blurring the Line Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement** – Local law enforcement should focus on keeping communities safe, not acting as an extension of federal immigration agencies. This bill risks diverting resources away from community policing efforts.
- **Creating Fear Among Immigrant Families** – Families will live in constant anxiety, even when seeking essential services such as healthcare or education, due to fear of separation and deportation.

Maryland should strive to be a state that protects all its residents and fosters an inclusive and trusting environment. HB1222 would have a chilling effect on community safety and contradicts

the values of fairness and justice. I urge you to vote against this bill and instead support policies that truly promote public safety while respecting the dignity and rights of all Maryland residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maureen Wambui