

**SB0791 - SUPPORT**

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## **SB0791 – Correctional Services and Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)**

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
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Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is William Mascioli. I've lived in Silver Spring for forty years. Last year, a group of neighbors and I formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I'm writing to express my strong support for SB00791, Correctional Services and Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act).

We are at a truly alarming moment in our country's history. In a recent judicial opinion in the Southern District of West Virginia, US District Court Judge Joseph R. Goodwin prefaced his opinion with dicta that aptly and painfully described the dangers to our republic presented by the actions of immigration enforcement agents:

Antiseptic judicial rhetoric cannot do justice to what is happening. Across the interior of the United States, agents of the federal government— masked, anonymous, armed with military weapons, operating from unmarked vehicles, acting without warrants of any kind — are seizing persons for civil immigration violations and imprisoning them without any semblance of due process. The systematic character of this practice and its deliberate elimination of every structural feature that distinguishes constitutional authority from raw force place it beyond the reach of ordinary legal description. It is an assault on the constitutional order. It is what the Fourth Amendment was written to prevent. It is what the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment forbids.

*Urquilla-Ramos v. Trump*, 2:26-cv-00066 (Feb. 19, 2026).<sup>1</sup>

Those of us who care about democracy are cheered by Maryland's recent enactment of a ban on formal 287(g) agreements with federal immigration agents. This is not because we favor lawlessness or open borders, but because the greatest lawbreakers are the unaccountable, unidentified, violent agents smashing people's windows, breaking into homes, pepper spraying—and sometimes killing—peaceful protesters, all

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wvsc.uscourts.gov/content/anderson-jesus-urquilla-ramos-v-donald-j-trump-et-al>.

with the awesome power of the federal government behind them. Indeed, gruesomely celebrating them.

SB0791 is an important complement to the ban on formal 287(g) agreements: Cooperation can clearly also occur without formal agreements and pose a great danger to law-abiding Maryland residents. SB0791 would shut down this loophole.

Marylanders are taking a stand every day in the streets, parks, and highway overpasses all over the state, even as the Trump administration makes clear that peaceful protesters are also their targets. We welcome this body's steps to match that same courage. Unaccountable law enforcement is the essence of a police state. Maryland should have no part of that. By ruling out cooperation with the out-of-control agency destabilizing our communities, SB0791 marks an important step towards reclaiming our basic rights. Accordingly, I urge a favorable report and thank you for your consideration.