

Testimony on Senate Bill - **Favorable**

SB0791 - Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 25, 2026

My name is Joyce Sims and I am a resident of Mechanicsville in St. Mary's County writing **in support of SB0791 – the Community Trust Act.**

I support SB0791 because some law enforcement entities in our state are voluntarily collaborating with ICE by providing notification about people in custody and then holding them past their release dates - without a judicial warrant. This is unconstitutional, wastes taxpayer dollars, and makes our communities less safe by eroding trust between residents and law enforcement.

Unfair tactics targeting immigrants, legal or otherwise, also causes harm to our local and national economy. Some of us have learned from talking with local businesses that their immigrant employees have been afraid to report to work for fear of being detained without cause; many are also keeping their children home from school. I personally know of at least two local restaurants that are carry-out only because they cannot find and retain staff to keep their dining rooms open.

SB0791 requires a judicial warrant in order for persons to be held for ICE, and stops local officers from proactively contacting ICE about the immigration status of people in their custody, thereby spending time and resources meant for criminal enforcement on civil matters. The bill in no way prevents the federal government from enforcing immigration laws; it simply ensures that Maryland is not doing that job for them.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue **a favorable report on SB0791.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joyce Sims

Mechanicsville MD 20659

Ref: Cato Inst; Feb 3, 2026; Bier, D.J., Howard, M., Salazar, J.

<https://www.cato.org/white-paper/immigrants-recent-effects-government-budgets-1994-2023>