

**Testimony on Senate Bill 1791 - Favorable**  
**Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions**  
**(Community Trust Act)**

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, hearing date 25, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laura Atwood, and I've lived in Silver Spring (D20) since 1999. I am writing in support of **SB1791 - the Community Trust Act**.

ICE has earned itself quite the bad reputation. Among other atrocities, ICE regularly violates laws and circumvents court orders, for example in the case of people who the U.S. courts have ruled cannot be deported to their home countries - ICE has deported to third countries which then deported them to their home countries. The U.S. government has not publicly tracked what happens to people after they are deported, but other organizations have found numerous cases of people who were deported to torture and/or death.

Once someone is in ICE's hands, we have no control over their fate. Knowingly turning someone over is tantamount to committing legal and human rights violations ourselves.

We already have a criminal-legal system that operates within the Constitution and applies to anyone on U.S. soil. There's no real purpose for ICE to go mucking around lawlessly operating a deeply flawed and cruel shadow system.

I support HB1575 because local jails and law enforcement across Maryland are voluntarily collaborating with ICE - holding people past their release dates and notifying ICE about individuals in custody, all without a judicial warrant. This is unconstitutional, wastes taxpayer dollars, and makes our communities less safe by eroding trust between residents and law enforcement.

This bill simply requires a judicial warrant before anyone is held for ICE and stops local officers from proactively contacting ICE about people in their custody. It lets ICE do its cruel job, it just doesn't have our state and local officials do it for them.

So many of our immigrant community members fled tyrannical police states and came here seeking safety. ICE's cruelty has severely eroded their trust in law enforcement here overall, and it is in our best interest as a state to maintain a separation - so that they know that state and local police and associated parts of our justice system are legitimate.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB1791**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.