

**Testimony on Senate Bill 791 – Favorable
SB791 – Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement -
Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 25, 2026

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

My name is Cindy Brach and I live in District 20. I am writing in support of **SB791 – the Community Trust Act**.

I want to start by thanking you for passing SB245, which prohibits 287g agreements in Maryland. That was an important first step in protecting Maryland's diverse residents, whom I'm proud to call my neighbors. However, it is not enough to prevent formal agreements between Maryland localities and ICE. We must also stop the informal cooperation with ICE.

SB791 is an easy bill to support because it is merely asking local law enforcement agencies to obey the law. Currently local jails and law enforcement across Maryland are holding people past their release dates and notifying ICE about individuals in custody. This is unconstitutional! Unless these agencies have a judicial warrant that authorizes them to hold individuals who should otherwise be released, they are breaking the law by detaining them.

In addition, SB791 provides benefits similar to those gained by SB245– it saves taxpayer's money and it prevents erosion of public trust in law enforcement. Cooperation with ICE redirects money that should go towards law enforcement to an unlawful activity – illegally detaining people. SB791 prevents this misuse of taxpayer funds. We also know that when local law enforcement agencies cooperate with ICE, it impedes the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts. People become afraid to report crimes or come forward as witnesses or with leads. SB791 would lessen those fears.

SB791 simply requires a judicial warrant before anyone is held for ICE and stops local officers from proactively contacting ICE about people in their custody. Please, think of the Maryland children who don't want to go to school because they are afraid their parents won't be home when they return. Let them know that you stand for the rule of law and that no one will be detained without a judicial warrant. If you supported SB245, the next logical step is to support SB791.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB791**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Brach