

## **Testimony on Senate Bill 791 – *Favorable***

### **SB791 – Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)**

#### **Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**February 23, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kevin Shen and I am a resident in Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB791/HB1575 – the Community Trust Act**.

As a second generation immigrant, my heart breaks to see dehumanizing immigration enforcement and to see the families of my neighbors being torn apart. The more I learn, the more my heart breaks, from the gruesome details of how folks are beaten as they are detained, to the appalling conditions in detention facilities, to the families they leave behind suddenly struggling to afford groceries or rent or legal fees. These are Marylanders making our state great, and yet they are in deep pain.

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 is something that Maryland can step up to do. I fear for the next years of increased ICE presence, and the state needs to step up to protect its residents. Detention can be a harrowing, traumatizing experience. It strikes fear in families and their surrounding communities, just as intended by the Trump administration.

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 does not prevent the federal government from enforcing immigration laws; it just ensures that Maryland is not doing ICE's job for them.

I implore you to step up for the people in our state, to make our communities *actually* safer, and keep families together.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB791/HB1575.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Shen, Montgomery County, MD