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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB791, Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)
February 25, 2026

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to urge you to support SB791, The Community Trust Act.

Just as Maryland's new law banning 287(g) cooperation agreements between local law enforcement and ICE goes into effect, sheriffs from nine counties have declared they will continue working with federal immigration officials by using certain "loopholes." Maryland needs SB791 to close these loopholes. This bill will do just that, prohibiting employees and agents of State and local correctional facilities, as well as law enforcement agents, from engaging in immigration enforcement activities that go beyond their core public safety missions.

By establishing these clear limits, SB791 protects fundamental rights and civil liberties, ensuring individuals are not subject to detention or investigation simply because of their nationality or immigration status. It aligns public safety responsibilities with community needs, ensuring that resources in correctional and law enforcement settings are focused on criminal justice rather than civil immigration enforcement.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to **support** SB791. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Farnaz Edwards