

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 Jean Montgomery, and I am a resident of Olney, Maryland, District 14. I am writing in **support of SB791 – the Community Trust Act**. This law prohibits Maryland employees, agents of the state, and local correctional facilities from working with immigration enforcement; bans transfers of to ICE unless a valid judicial warrant is presented; protects sensitive locations, such as schools, hospitals and courthouses; mandates law enforcement agencies in Maryland adopt these policies or face penalties; and provides Maryland residents with civil action as recourse to sue if this law is violated.

I **support SB791** because while HB 444/SB 245 is law, prohibiting and eliminating 287 g agreements between ICE and county police, there are still local jails and law enforcement voluntarily collaborating with ICE in Maryland--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.

I care personally about this issue for many reasons. First of all, ICE operates unlawfully, illegally searching, seizing, entering homes and private spaces, trafficking, and imprisoning persons, in flagrant disregard of the Constitutional Rights afforded to all persons in the United States. Secondly, I do not want the name and honor of our state's law enforcement tarred with their impunity, given that ICE operates lawlessly. Thirdly, many of my family members, friends, and community members and **Maryland residents** come from multicultural, multilingual backgrounds, hold a variety of statuses (e.g, naturalized citizen, dual citizen, resident with student/worker VISA, etc), and play a pivotal role in my church, family, local economy, and community at large. Their lives, livelihood, and that of their families are endangered when local law enforcement operate outside of our state law and alongside ICE agents.

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. The passage of this law will improve safety, trust, or fairness in Maryland by (1) re-affirming the rights and liberties afforded to all persons by our Constitution; (2) providing an enforcement mechanism for Maryland law, so that no counties or sheriffs operate outside of our state law; and (3) confirming that all Maryland residents are protected by judicial process by mandating judicial warrants..

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB791/HB1575**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jean Montgomery, District 14 voter.