

TESTIMONY FOR SB0791
Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement -
Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)

Position: FAVORABLE

This bill ensures that state and local police officers are not used as federal immigration agents. State and local law enforcement are funded by Maryland taxpayers, and diverting their time and resources to federal civil immigration enforcement weakens their ability to focus on local public safety needs.

The bill also clarifies the critical difference between an ICE detainer and a judicial warrant. Transferring someone to ICE without a judicial warrant is unlawful. .

Undocumented residents are often long-term community members who pay taxes, check in regularly with federal agencies, and are in the years-long process of obtaining legal status. They should not be targeted or harassed. Importantly, this bill does not prevent police from identifying individuals who are on federal criminal watch lists. That information is already available through standard database checks when an officer runs a driver's license.

SB0791 strengthens public safety by ensuring that police focus on criminal activity, not civil immigration matters, and by requiring ICE to obtain judicial warrants when appropriate—something judges are available to issue at any time. This protects both residents and local governments while maintaining lawful cooperation where it is actually necessary.

I urge you to vote Favorable on SB0791 and support its passage through the General Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration.

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