



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

**Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**February 25th, 2026**

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
CTW, CLC

**MANNY PASTREICH**  
President

**JOHN SANTOS**  
Secretary Treasurer

**ROXANA RIVERA**  
Assistant to the President

**EXECUTIVE VICE  
PRESIDENTS**

KEVIN BROWN  
JAIME CONTRERAS  
ROB HILL  
DENIS JOHNSTON  
GABE MORGAN  
KEVIN STAVRIS  
CANDIS TALL

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

ANA MARIA HILL  
ISRAEL MELENDEZ  
HELENE O'BRIEN  
ROCHELLE PALACHE  
MICHAEL PISTONE  
SAM WILLIAMSON

**Capital Area District**

Washington 202.387.3211  
Baltimore 410.244.6299  
Virginia 202.387.3211

**Connecticut District**

Hartford 860.560.8674  
Stamford 203.674.9965

**Mid-Atlantic District 1201**

215.226.3600  
215.923.5488  
302.295.4814

**Florida District**

305.672.7071

**Hudson Valley District**

914.328.3492

**Kentucky District**

502.368.9122

**New England District 615**

617.523.6150

**New Jersey District**

973.824.3225

**Western Pennsylvania  
District**

412.471.0690

www.seiu32bj.org

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

My name is Jaime Contreras, and I am the Southern Regional Director and Executive Vice President of 32BJ SEIU. I am pleased to offer favorable testimony in support of **SB791 – the Community Trust Act**.

32BJ SEIU represents over 185,000 members up and down the East Coast, over 4,000 of whom work here in Maryland. Our members are predominantly immigrants and people of color, and make up the backbone of the property service industry: they are the essential cleaners, security guards, airport workers, and other building service workers who keep our homes, workplaces, schools, and transportation hubs clean and safe. With our dedicated members, we fight to build communities where immigrants can live free of fear and are treated with fundamental dignity and respect.

As federal immigration policy becomes increasingly reckless, Maryland's communities are under attack. Immigration arrests have increased across the country and nearly tripled in Maryland.<sup>1</sup> Our union family is no exception: multiple 32BJ members have been subjected to unjust detention by ICE.

Although President Trump claimed that ICE would be targeting "dangerous criminals,"<sup>1</sup> seventy three percent of those detained since October of last year had no criminal conviction and only five percent had been convicted of a violent crime.<sup>2</sup>

The function of these indiscriminate and often violent detentions is to create fear and undermine the social fabric of our communities. Maryland's law enforcement officers – who are tasked with keeping us safe - should not have any part in this. But under the current system, local jails and police across nearly every county voluntarily hold and transfer individuals to ICE without a judicial warrant – even where individuals have not committed a crime.

---

<sup>1</sup> Goldin, Melissa. Trump says he wants to deport 'the worst of the worst.' Government data tells another story." *Associated Press*. July 12, 2025. Available at: <https://apnews.com/article/fact-check-trump-immigration-crime-ice-criminal-dangerous-violent-99557d9d68642004193a9f4b7668162e>

<sup>2</sup> Bier, David. "5% of People Detained By ICE Have Violent Convictions, 73% No Convictions." *CATO Institute*. November 24, 2025. Available at: <https://www.cato.org/blog/5-ice-detainees-have-violent-convictions-73-no-convictions>.



SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
CTW, CLC

**MANNY PASTREICH**  
President

**JOHN SANTOS**  
Secretary Treasurer

**ROXANA RIVERA**  
Assistant to the President

**EXECUTIVE VICE  
PRESIDENTS**

KEVIN BROWN  
JAIME CONTRERAS  
ROB HILL  
DENIS JOHNSTON  
GABE MORGAN  
KEVIN STAVRIS  
CANDIS TALL

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

ANA MARIA HILL  
ISRAEL MELENDEZ  
HELENE O'BRIEN  
ROCHELLE PALACHE  
MICHAEL PISTONE  
SAM WILLIAMSON

**Capital Area District**

Washington 202.387.3211  
Baltimore 410.244.6299  
Virginia 202.387.3211

**Connecticut District**

Hartford 860.560.8674  
Stamford 203.674.9965

**Mid-Atlantic District 1201**

215.226.3600  
215.923.5488  
302.295.4814

**Florida District**

305.672.7071

**Hudson Valley District**

914.328.3492

**Kentucky District**

502.368.9122

**New England District 615**

617.523.6150

**New Jersey District**

973.824.3225

**Western Pennsylvania  
District**

412.471.0690

www.seiu32bj.org

These practices undermine the presumption of innocence and grow distrust of law enforcement. They deter individuals from reporting crimes and may specifically deter workers from reporting labor violations due to fear of retaliation.

It is essential that a clear law is drawn between the Trump administration's political attacks and the work of local law enforcement agencies. As Governor Moore stated recently: "In Maryland, we defend Constitutional rights and Constitutional policing".

For these reasons, on behalf of 32BJ SEIU, I urge the committee to issue a favorable report on **SB791**.

Sincerely,

Jaime Contreras  
Southern Regional Director and Executive Vice President  
32BJ SEIU

---

<sup>i</sup> Kate Amara & Khiree Stewart, *'It scares me': Marylanders protesting as data shows ICE arrests nearly tripled in 2025*, WBAL-TV 11 Baltimore, Jan 12, 2026.  
<https://www.wbaltv.com/article/marylanders-protesting-data-ice-arrests-nearly-tripled-2025/69980610>