

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 23, 2026

Dear Senator Smith, Senator Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am a Baltimore City resident and I am a member of a group of women who are funders and invested in local and state politics. I strongly urge you to pass SB791, the Community Trust Act, to end state and local collaboration with ICE and protect the safety, rights, and dignity of Maryland residents. Immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, yet Maryland's local law enforcement agencies are being drawn into a deportation pipeline through voluntary collaboration that is costly, unnecessary, and harmful to public trust.

In 2025, the vast majority of Marylanders transferred to ICE custody came through informal local collaboration, not formal programs, and most had NO criminal convictions. Let me repeat: most had NO criminal convictions. Many individuals were funneled into federal detention simply because local systems choose to notify or hold them for ICE. This undermines due process, erodes the presumption of innocence, and discourages immigrant families from engaging with law enforcement when they need help, making all of our communities less safe.

The Community Trust Act provides a clear, lawful boundary: requiring a judicial warrant before anyone is detained for ICE and prohibiting local officials from facilitating civil immigration enforcement.

Maryland has no legal obligation to assist ICE. Continuing to do so is a policy choice that exposes local jurisdictions to legal risk, strains limited resources and weakens community trust in public safety institutions. By passing the Community Trust Act, Maryland can uphold the rule of law, protect constitutional rights, and ensure that local law enforcement remains focused on keeping communities safe—not acting as an arm of federal immigration enforcement.

For the safety of our communities, the integrity of our legal system, and the protection of Maryland families, I respectfully urge a favorable report on the Community Trust Act.

Sincerely,

Erin Hodge-Williams
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