

From the Desk of Congressman David Trone

February 25, 2026

The Honorable William Smith
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Jeff Waldstreicher
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

I write in support of *Senate Bill 791 - the Community Trust Act*. This legislation is a necessary step to protect the due process rights of all Maryland residents and to maintain trust in our justice system.

In 2025, over four times as many Marylanders were transferred to ICE custody through informal local collaboration than through the formal 287(g) program. Many of those rounded up had no criminal history, and some were even U.S. citizens or military veterans. Situations like these raise serious concerns about the presumption of innocence and the right to challenge detention before a judge, fundamental protections that are central to our justice system since its founding.

The federal *Laken Riley Act*, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump, expanded mandatory ICE detentions, making it possible for individuals to be held without judicial review. While this federal law enables such detentions, Maryland is not required to participate. The *Community Trust Act* closes the loophole left by the 287(g) ban, ensuring that informal collaboration does not continue in ways that compromise constitutional protections.

This legislation requires that no individual can be held or transferred to ICE without a judicial warrant and prevents proactive sharing of information for immigration enforcement. Federal authorities retain their responsibilities and access to federal systems, while Maryland ensures its processes respect due process and civil liberties.

Passing this legislation is about protecting the rights and dignity of all residents, reinforcing the presumption of innocence, and maintaining public trust. Safeguarding these principles strengthens our communities, promotes fairness, and supports the safety and stability that everyone depends on.

Respectfully,



David Trone
Former Member of Congress