

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB791
Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions
(Community Trust Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 23, 2026

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

My name is Anne Lafferty, and I am a resident of Silver Spring in Montgomery County, MD. I am writing in support of SB791, Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act).

My understanding is that many local jails in Maryland inform ICE when they have an undocumented immigrant in their custody, even when, as is typically the case, the detainee in question has no criminal convictions and may never be convicted of anything. In other cases, any convictions are for non-violent, low-level crimes.

Moreover, a primary tool that ICE uses to ensure that detainees will continue to be detained in our local jails beyond what otherwise be their release date is immigration detainers, which not only have no legal force, but, based on case law and the opinion of the Attorney General, are, in fact illegal and may thus eventually lead to lawsuits.

While I have no objections to immigrants who have been convicted of serious crimes being deported, I think that Maryland ought not to squander state and local resources, to say nothing of community good will, on keeping ICE apprised of the immigration status of people who have been convicted of nothing or of only low-level offenses. We also ought not to waste those resources on detaining people beyond the time that it is legally permissible to detain them.

ICE officers have repeatedly treated people badly, even when in full public view, and its detention facilities are not known for their ability to meet basic standards of care. Please vote for SB791 and protect state residents from detention by ICE.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Lafferty