

February 23, 2026

Ronit A. Dancis
Silver Spring, 20910

TESTIMONY ON SB0791 - POSITION: (FAVORABLE)
**Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement -
Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)**

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Ronit Aviva Dancis

My name is Ronit Aviva Dancis. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of (SB0791), (Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)).

I am the sister-in-law, daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, stepdaughter and niece of immigrants. Our family, almost all Marylanders, includes people whose first language is Russian, Yiddish or Spanish. Wherever they emigrated from, my relatives all emigrated to the US for the justice and opportunity guaranteed by the US Constitution and the rule of law.

Over 120 years ago, the Czar's police knocked on my great-grandfather's door, looking for Uncle Max, who was 14 years old. There was no bill of rights in Czarist Russia; the Czar's police didn't need a warrant. Jews had even fewer rights. If the Czar's police had taken 14 year old Max that night, they could have tortured and held him indefinitely. Great-grandpa took Max and left for the US immediately, leaving behind his pregnant wife and three younger children, two of whom were toddlers. The danger was so great that they couldn't wait to save up enough money for the boat tickets to bring the entire family over. The family was separated for 3 years. My great-grandparents made that unimaginable sacrifice so they could raise their children in a nation with a Bill of Rights.

The constitutional rights for which my great-grandparents sacrificed so much are regularly violated by ICE. Like the Czar's secret police, ICE is an entirely lawless agency. It is no surprise that Maryland law enforcement and Maryland jail officials, when voluntarily cooperating with ICE, are equally lawless. Maryland law enforcement and jail officials are holding people past their release date and notifying ICE of individuals in their custody – without the constitutionally required judicial warrant. SB0791 will ensure Marylanders' constitutional rights are upheld.

SB0791 does not prevent the federal government from enforcing immigration laws.

Marylanders are counting on you to pass this bill to protect our Constitutional rights, require a judicial warrant before anyone is held for ICE and stop local officers from proactively contacting ICE about people in their custody.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0791.