

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 25, 2026

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

My name is **Samantha Hodge-Williams**, and I am a resident of Garrett County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB791 – the Community Trust Act**.

In order to make the new statewide ban on 287gs effective, this complementary bill is paramount.

Last week, upon passage of the 287g ban, many Maryland Sheriffs, including ours, announced immediately and publicly that their office and the local jail will continue to cooperate and coordinating with ICE. Allowing informal access to jails facilitates collaboration and undermines the newly enacted 287g ban strongly supported by most Marylanders.

In fact, in states like New Jersey, Sherriff's workaround the statewide ban actually led to a surge in ICE arrests from jails and other lockups, almost doubling between in May to October 2025 (Data obtained via FOIA request, processed by the Deportation Data Project & analyzed by the Prison Policy Initiative). Despite a statewide ban, Morris County jail and other New Jersey pretrial detention facilities continued to allow ICE to enter and make arrests with the Sheriff explaining, "We have a working relationship with those authorities at our jail. They come in, and they check, you know, every other day they're in our jail, right now."

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2025/12/11/ice-jails-update/>

It should not be the role of local officers to proactively contact ICE about people in their custody, nor should our jails be holding individuals past their release date. Communities are stronger and safer when local officers are trusted to serve and protect all residents. Without SB791, this may not be possible.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB791**.

Thank you.