

Wednesday 2/25, 1:00 pm

Franca Brilliant, Takoma Park, MD 20912

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 Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Franca Brilliant

My name is Franca Brilliant. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 0791, Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act). I am the Social Action Vice President of the Board of Tifereth Israel Congregation, located in Washington, DC with over 200 members who are Maryland residents, as well as a participant in the SEA Change DMV network of synagogues dedicated to advancing social justice.

I support SB0791 because local jails and law enforcement across Maryland are voluntarily collaborating with ICE - holding people past their release dates and notifying ICE about individuals in custody, all without a judicial warrant. This is unconstitutional, wastes taxpayer dollars, and makes our communities less safe by eroding trust between residents and law enforcement.

In the annual cycle of reading the Torah every Shabbat we have reached the story of Moses and Pharaoh, the source of the repeated commandment that we should treat the stranger “as one of your citizens...love him as yourself for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

I have watched with horror this past year as ICE has terrorized communities, torn families apart, and illegally harassed individuals, including citizens of the United States, based on their appearance and the color of their skin. I have friends and neighbors who live in terror of being picked up and disappeared to an undisclosed location on their way to being deported. I know that ICE is currently recruiting tens of thousands of agents with hefty salaries and signing bonuses and providing minimal training in the rules that govern interaction with community members.

This is not how we should behave.

This bill simply requires a judicial warrant before anyone is held for ICE and stops local officers from proactively contacting ICE about people in their custody. It does not prevent the federal government from enforcing immigration laws; it just ensures that Maryland is not doing ICE's job for them.

Maryland local and state law enforcement agents have their own important roles to play. This does not include acting as agents of ICE. **This legislation will make a difference to communities across the state. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0791.**