

Testimony on Senate Bill 791 – Favorable

**SB791 – Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement -
Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 23, 2026

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Henry F. Gordon

My name is Henry Gordon. I am a resident of District 20 and live in Montgomery County. I am a retired economist who spent my professional career working in developing countries. Currently I am involved in Park Hills and Seven Oaks neighborhood associations.

I support SB791 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 their custody, all without a judicial warrant.

As a World Bank staff member I had long experience working with authoritarian governments in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa. I frequently dealt with relations between central governments and local authorities. The pressure exerted on localities by our federal government to carry out its lawless agenda is shocking to me. Such behavior may be common in the countries where I worked, but I never expected to see it in the United States.

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. Ending this collaboration would improve safety, trust, or fairness in my community and the state at large. For these reasons, **I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB791.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Henry Gordon

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