

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB 1575 – Correctional Services and Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)

Judiciary Committee

February 23, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB1575, Correctional Services and Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act). Thank you for passing the emergency bill banning 287(g) agreements in Maryland. That is an important first step in stopping the terrorizing of the immigrant community going on these days. But it is only the first step. Almost 1/3 of ICE arrests in Maryland were facilitated by local jails. By far the majority of those (82%), were not 287(g) related. Many of those people had been accused of only minor offenses, and many of them had not been convicted of any offense. DHS likes to claim that it is only deporting the worst of the worst, but anybody who follows the news knows that is not the case. ICE is out of control. We need to do everything we can to stop this immoral and illegal treatment of people who are just trying to live their lives. It is up to us to do what we can to curb ICE. State and local law enforcement should not be cooperating in any way with ICE. Any cooperation makes them complicit with terrorizing our communities.

I respectfully urge you to issue a favorable report on HB1575.

Thank you.