

Testimony on House Bill 1575 – Favorable

HB1575 – Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions
(Community Trust Act)

House Judiciary Committee

February 25, 2026

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

My name is Nancy Hadad, and I am a resident and community member of Gaithersburg, Maryland, District 17. I am writing in support of HB1575 – the Community Trust Act. This law prohibits Maryland employees and ages of the state and local correctional facilities from working with immigration enforcement; bans transfers of individuals to ICE unless a valid judicial warrant is presented, protects sensitive locations, such as schools, hospitals and courthouses; mandates law enforcement agencies within Maryland adopt these policies or face penalties; and provides Maryland residents with civil action as recourse to sue if this law is violated.

I support HB1575 because while HB 444/SB 245 was signed into law, prohibiting and eliminating 287 g agreements between ICE and county police, there are still local jails and law enforcement across Maryland which 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.

I care personally about this issue for many reasons. First of all, ICE operates unlawfully, illegally searching, seizing, entering homes and private spaces, trafficking, and imprisoning persons, in flagrant disregard of the Constitutional Rights afforded to all persons in the United States. Secondly, given that ICE operates lawlessly, aggressively, and with fatal force, I do not want the name and honor of our state's law enforcement tarred with their impunity. Thirdly, many of my family members, friends, and beloved community members and Maryland residents come from a variety of multicultural, multilingual backgrounds, hold a variety of statuses (e.g, naturalized citizen, dual citizen, resident with student/worker VISA, etc), and play a pivotal role in my church, family, local economy, and community at large. Their lives, livelihood, and that of their families are endangered when local law enforcement operate outside of our state law and alongside ICE agents.

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. The passage of this law will improve safety, trust, or fairness in Maryland by (1) re-affirming the rights and liberties afforded to all persons by our Constitution; (2) providing an enforcement mechanism for Maryland law, so that no counties or sheriffs operate outside of our state law; and (3) confirming that all Maryland residents are protected by the law by requiring judicial warrants as a necessary step in the apprehension process.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB791/HB1575. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hadad, District 17 voter.