

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of HB 1575, the Community Trust Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Twenty-three of Maryland's 24 counties have nothing in place to prevent local correctional officers and facilities from choosing to abet ICE in acts of mass incarceration and deportation. In 2025, these informal local collaborations were culpable for the transfer of over four times more Marylanders to ICE custody than were transferred through a formal 287(g) program. Most of these Marylanders had no criminal convictions.

When local law enforcement collaborates with ICE, people's trust in these systems degrades. Law enforcement may not be contacted for human trafficking because of well-founded fear that *any* contact with local officials will funnel to the inexplicably cruel deportation machine. State funds meant to reduce trafficking and improve standards of living will be wasted if people are afraid to come into contact with state agents. I don't want to live in a state (or a country) where portions of our population are sheltering themselves against any state contact.

What HB 1575 accomplishes is to draw a line between Maryland law-enforcement officials and federal immigration-enforcement agents. Hence the name: the Act is a step toward restoring community trust in local law enforcement. Without that trust, law enforcement cannot function effectively, and the people of Maryland cannot feel that they are being protected.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of HB 1575, the Community Trust Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Juberg
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