

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

My name is Jacob Keller, and I am a lifelong resident of Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB1575 – the Community Trust Act**.

Although my parents were born in the United States, I owe my happy and carefree childhood to the hardworking women from Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia who cared for me so that my parents could make a living. These women, some undocumented, some documented, all ensured that my siblings and I never missed our parents for a second, keeping us all entertained, well-fed, and smiling for over fifteen years. Crucially, each of these women would be targeted for brutal arrest, public humiliation, and deportation into poverty and persecution by Donald Trump's racist ICE regime.

I support HB1575 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.

I am a white, US-born male citizen, privileged more than I can ever know. And I have never felt more unsafe than I do today, knowing that an \$80-billion-dollar private army prowls our streets, and that every police car I see could be surveilling, pursuing, and detaining on their behalf.

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's beauty and strength as a state lie in its diversity, in its welcoming of all individuals with kindness and trust, in its rich community of languages, ethnicities, religions, and perspectives. There is no stronger deed we could take than to protect all Marylanders from surrender or exposure to Donald Trump's chauvinistic, ignorant brutality.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on HB1575**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jacob Keller