

Testimony on House Bill 1575 – Favorable

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

House Judiciary Committee

February 21, 2026

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

My name is Karen Murphy-Keddell, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. **I am writing in support of HB1575 – the Community Trust Act.** As a Unitarian Universalist, my faith calls me to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to act with compassion and justice in human relations. Supporting this bill aligns with those values by protecting human rights, fostering trust in our communities, and upholding the moral principle that no one should be treated unfairly or inhumanely.

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.

News reports have revealed the violence and chaos perpetrated by ICE agents against people in our country, including in our home state of Maryland. This not only creates fear in our communities, causing families to stop accessing food banks and medical care but also makes them question whether it's safe to send their children to school

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.

This is not a radical bill; it will help improve safety and restore trust and fairness in our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB791/HB1575.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Murphy-Keddell, kmkeddell@gmail.com, Howard County, Maryland