

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Michelle Feit
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TESTIMONY ON HBI575 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Michelle Feit

My name is Michelle Feit, and I am a resident of District 20 in the Montgomery Knolls neighborhood of Silver Spring. **I am submitting this testimony in support of HBI575, Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act).**

I grew up in Columbia and attended the University of Maryland for both undergraduate and graduate school, and after living in the District of Columbia for several years I am thrilled that my husband and I have found such a wonderful community in Silver Spring in which to put down roots and raise our almost 2-year-old child. But the biggest threat to our community right now is ICE. They are terrorizing immigrant Marylanders, particularly in our neighborhood, which has become one of the most targeted areas in the state for ICE enforcement. It often feels helpless watching ICE abduct our neighbors and community members, so it is imperative that our state legislature takes whatever actions are within our control to protect our community members.

I commend the committee and the entire legislature for banning 287(g) agreements, and the Community Trust Act is the critical next step to take to protect our immigrant neighbors. Even without 287(g) agreements in place, local jails and law enforcement across Maryland are still voluntarily collaborating with ICE - holding people past their release dates and notifying ICE about individuals in custody, all without a judicial warrant. This makes our communities less safe by eroding trust between residents and law enforcement.

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. As such, **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HBI575.**