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**Testimony in support, with amendment, of House Bill 1575
Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions
(Community Trust Act)**

To: Hon. Sandy Bartlett, chair, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee
From: Jerry Kickenson, Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network
Date: February 23, 2026

We are writing in **support of House Bill 1575, Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)** on behalf of the Congregation Action Network (CAN). The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With congregations and members throughout the capital area, including congregations with hundreds of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

As people of faith committed to justice and compassion for immigrants, we adhere to the sacred texts of most major faiths that call for welcoming the stranger and treating each other with love, dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be treated fairly and have the same protections as all Maryland residents.

HB1575 will prohibit state and local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration authorities for civil immigration enforcement when there is no judicial warrant. ICE routinely requests our local correctional and jail officers to notify ICE of upcoming releases, detaining Maryland residents beyond the time determined by our state judicial system, and transferring detained individuals to ICE solely on the basis of administrative warrants and detainer requests generated by the very same agency making the request. Besides the constitutional questions raised, our state and local law enforcement agencies have no business enforcing federal immigration law - Maryland residents need these public servants spending their time and effort enforcing state and local laws. This level of cooperation also wrecks trust of our immigrant communities in our local law enforcement, to the detriment of all Maryland residents.

Immigrant communities in Maryland are scared, and with good reason. Our member congregations are either directly or indirectly impacted by the current civil immigration enforcement onslaught. Ending the existing civil immigration cooperation, is one important step in alleviating that fear.

The Congregation Action Network respectfully urges you to reach a **favorable** report for **HB1575**, that will simply get all Maryland law enforcement out of the business of federal immigration enforcement, and back to their real work of enforcing state and local laws, while aligning Maryland law with our values and commitment to the protection and respect of all Maryland residents, irrespective of where they were born.

Respectfully yours,
Jerry Kickenson
Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network
Silver Spring, MD