

Stopping collaboration with ICE will increase community trust and cooperation with local law enforcement. When immigrant families are afraid that any interaction with police could lead to deportation, they are less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek help. This makes all of us less safe. Building trust in these communities must be an essential component of state and local law enforcement missions.

We must also recognize the immense contributions of immigrants to our state. They are neighbors, friends, business owners, coaches, teachers, taxpayers, and essential workers who strengthen the fabric of Maryland. The primary role of local law enforcement is to protect and serve our communities, not to enforce complex federal immigration laws.

Maryland must act to protect its families. By passing this legislation, you will take a decisive stand for community safety, for civil rights, and for the principle that local resources should be used to build trust.