

**Testimony on House Bill 1575 – Favorable
HB1575– Correctional Services & Public Safety –
Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)**

Judiciary Committee

February 23, 2026

Dear Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to pass HB1575, the Community Trust Act, to end state and local collaboration with ICE and protect the safety, rights, and dignity of Maryland residents. Immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, yet Maryland's local law enforcement agencies are being drawn into a deportation pipeline through voluntary collaboration that is costly, unnecessary, and harmful to public trust.

In 2025, the vast majority of Marylanders transferred to ICE custody came through informal local collaboration, not formal programs, and most had NO criminal convictions. Many individuals in local jails are legally presumed innocent, yet they are being funneled into federal detention simply because local systems choose to notify or hold them for ICE. This undermines due process, erodes the presumption of innocence, and discourages immigrant families from engaging with law enforcement when they need help, making all of our communities less safe.

The Community Trust Act provides a clear, lawful boundary: requiring a judicial warrant before anyone is detained for ICE and prohibiting local officials from facilitating civil immigration enforcement. It does not prevent the federal government from enforcing immigration laws, nor does it block information-sharing already available through federal databases. Instead, it ensures that Maryland is not using local taxpayer dollars to support unconstitutional detentions or federal overreach.

Maryland has no legal obligation to assist ICE. Continuing to do so is a policy choice that exposes local jurisdictions to legal risk, strains limited resources and weakens community trust in public safety institutions. By passing the Community Trust Act, Maryland can uphold the rule of law, protect constitutional rights, and ensure that local law enforcement remains focused on keeping communities safe—not acting as an arm of federal immigration enforcement.

For the safety of our communities, the integrity of our legal system, and the protection of Maryland families, I respectfully urge a favorable report on the Community Trust Act.

Sincerely,

Kelly Hodge-Williams
5905 Charlesmead Ave, Baltimore MD 21212