

**Testimony on House Bill 1575 – Favorable
HB1575 – Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement -
Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)
House Judiciary Committee
February 23, 2026**

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

My name is Mary Anne Newkirk. I live in Columbia, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB1575 – the Community Trust Act**.

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.

The Fifth Amendment grants immigrants the right to avoid self-incrimination. Coercing them to reveal their immigration status violates this right. We can't sacrifice the Constitution to meet deportation quotas. This bill, in standing up for Constitutional protections, protects us all.

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.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mary Anne Newkirk
Columbia, Maryland