



Catonsville Indivisible Group

**Support for House Bill 1575 -Favorable
Correctional Services and Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement
Prohibitions
Community Trust Act**

My name is Susan Radke and am a co-leader with Catonsville Indivisible Group, a grassroots group of constituents living in Catonsville, Southwest Baltimore County, Maryland who are dedicated to protecting our U.S. Constitutional rights, as well as progressive and democratic values. The **Catonsville Indivisible Group** and I strongly support HB 1575 which prohibits employees and agents of the State and local correctional facilities from taking certain actions related to immigration enforcement.

Currently, local jails and law enforcement in Maryland voluntarily collaborate with ICE and hold immigrants past their release date so that ICE agents can take these individuals into custody without a judicial warrant. This is against a person's constitutional right and it is wasteful taxpayer dollars to keep individuals in jail. Further these actions erode trust between residents and law enforcement.

While attending an event here in Maryland, one of the immigrant participants discussed how her son was arrested for a minor offence, taken out of jail and sent to El Salvador's CECOT which is the maximum-security prison in El Salvador; the same prison where Kilmar Garcia and many immigrants are sent. This mother reported it took months to locate her son, she has no communications with him, no idea about his condition, nor how to get him released. Her son is lost in the system as many other of our immigrant neighbors. HB1575 can prevent this from happening to other immigrants who are arrested for minor offences such as traffic violations.

The Catonsville Indivisible Group and I support this bill because it requires a signed, dated Judicial warrant before ICE can take an immigrant from custody and stop local officers from proactively contacting ICE. This bill does not prevent the federal government from enforcing immigration laws, but ensures that a person's constitutional rights are protected. Further, the bill ensures that no person, their family, household member, or legal guardian are coerced, intimidated or threatened due to actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status.

House Bill 1575 can restore community trust in law enforcement and reduce fear, therefore, and we urge the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report and ultimately pass this bill.

Susan Radke, co-leader, on behalf of the Catonsville Indivisible Group