

**SB 791/HB 1575:** Correctional Services and Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act): Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee and Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my strong **opposition** to **SB 791/HB 1575**, the "Community Trust Act."

Key **problematic issues** with **SB 791/HB 1575** include:

- Prohibiting inquiries into citizenship or immigration status (beyond limited exceptions), which **hinders officers' ability to identify potential threats**, verify identities, or address related criminal activity.
- Barring detention or prolonged detention based on suspicion of civil immigration violations or at federal request, unless a judicial warrant (excluding administrative warrants from DHS or DOJ) is presented—effectively **preventing routine, lawful transfers to ICE for deportable, criminal, dangerous individuals**.
- Forbidding notification to federal authorities of an individual's custody without a court order or judicial warrant, **limiting information sharing that could aid in public safety efforts** and enforcement of federal law.
- Preventing transfers to federal immigration authorities without a judicial warrant, which could allow criminal aliens or those with removal orders to be released back into communities rather than handed over for federal processing. **This will necessitate federal ICE officers entering into local neighborhoods, making routine, lawful transfers chaotic and exponentially increase serious risks to public safety during enforcement of federal law.**

These restrictions could endanger public safety by releasing deportable individuals—including those with criminal histories. While exceptions exist (e.g., for criminal investigations or certain legal protections), the bill's narrow definition of acceptable warrants and broad bans on routine cooperation go too far, prioritizing non-cooperation over practical law enforcement needs. **Maryland already has mechanisms to limit unnecessary entanglement in federal immigration matters without creating these sweeping barriers that tie the hands of correctional staff and police.**

I urge the Committee to **give SB 791/HB 1575 an unfavorable report** and prevent its passage.

**Maintaining appropriate cooperation with federal authorities is essential for community safety, rule of law, and effective public protection.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals