

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

**House Judiciary Committee**

**February 25, 2026**

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

**Indivisible Baltimore County** offers favorable testimony in support of **HB1575 – the Community Trust Act**.

**Indivisible Baltimore County is one of thousands of Indivisible groups across the country taking action to build grassroots power and fight for a truly inclusive democracy.**

The Community Trust Act is about drawing a clear line between Maryland law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement. Right now, local jails and police across nearly every Maryland county voluntarily hold and transfer individuals to ICE without a judicial warrant. Many of these individuals have not been convicted of any crime. This informal collaboration turns local agencies into extensions of ICE's deportation machine, undermines the presumption of innocence, and erodes the community trust that keeps all Marylanders safe.

**Indivisible Baltimore County advocated for County House Bill 98-25: Protections for Non- U.S. Citizens**, following widespread community concern due to the removal of the county's sanctuary status. 98-25 clarified that county personnel will not engage in civil immigration enforcement beyond what is legally required, ensuring that all residents can safely interact with local government.

The Community Trust Act 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.

**Ending collaboration between local law enforcement and federal civil immigration authorities, as proposed in House Bill 1575, would reduce fear, strengthen trust in public systems, and ensure that our communities can safely access the protections and services they are entitled to.**

For these reasons, **Indivisible Baltimore County** urges the committee to issue a favorable report on HB1575.

Sincerely,

**Jennifer Blalock, Steering Committee**  
**Indivisible Baltimore County**  
**contact@indivisible-baltimorecounty.org**