



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Bill Title: HB1536 - Maryland Enforcement Limits and Transparency (MELT) Act

Position: Favorable (FAV)

To: Judiciary Committee

From: Erica Puentes, Legislative Coordinator on behalf of Progressive Maryland

Date: March 9, 2026

Dear Chair Bartlett and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Erica Puentes, I am the Legislative Coordinator for Progressive Maryland, a member based organization led by and focused on working class, Black, and brown communities. Our grassroots advocacy focuses include racial justice and economic justice with the aim of building a more just and equitable Maryland. We have over 125,000 members and supporters across the state, with significant bases in Baltimore City, Prince George's, Montgomery, Frederick, Harford counties, and the Eastern Shore. **Progressive Maryland is in strong support of HB1536 - Maryland Enforcement Limits and Transparency (MELT) Act.**

Progressive Maryland stands firmly for immigrant rights and opposes enforcement policies that tear families apart and sow fear in our communities. We believe immigration justice is inseparable from the broader fight against oppression and racism, and we are committed to ensuring dignity, safety, and full inclusion for all people, regardless of immigration status.

HB1536 is essential to protecting the safety, stability, and dignity of immigrant residents in Maryland. If implemented, HB1536 would help safeguard our communities by limiting Maryland's involvement in federal civil immigration enforcement.

Progressive Maryland members are deeply concerned about the erosion of democratic norms and the rise of state-funded attacks on Black, brown, and immigrant communities. The activities of ICE represent a form of state-sanctioned terror that spreads fear and destabilizes families and neighborhoods. Maryland must stand up to this anti-democratic and violent behavior and fight back against the harms our communities are facing. For these reasons, **Progressive Maryland urges the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1536.**