



## Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

### Testimony HB 1575-

### Correctional Services and Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act), Favorable Report

To: Del. J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair, Del. Debra Davis, Vice-Chair, and  
Members of the Judiciary Committee  
From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate for Immigration,  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
Date: February 25, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony **IN FAVOR** of **HB 1575 - Correctional Services and Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)**.

I ask you to close your eyes and picture the images from Los Angeles, Chicago, and Minneapolis. Agents of our federal government have abused the trust placed in them as they patrol city streets in military-type vehicles or in unmarked cars, abducting law-abiding individuals, entering homes without a judicial warrant, and murdering U.S. citizens. Picture the courthouse in Greenbelt where our neighbor, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, continues to fight for his safety and to be with his family after his illegal deportation.

These images alone ought to be sufficient to argue for a favorable vote of **HB 1575** which will end the participation of state and local government employees and facilities with federal authorities in immigration enforcement. When the U.S. Supreme Court in 1875 and into the 1880's placed immigration under federal control, it marked a precedent that we should follow. Immigration is a federal responsibility, and we should draw a clear line between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement, while allowing the justice system to function as intended. Maryland has no legal obligation to assist ICE; continued collaboration is a political choice that wastes taxpayer dollars and harms communities. Ending this cooperation will strengthen public safety, encourage crime reporting, and affirm that Maryland will not be complicit in targeting hard-working, law-abiding immigrant families who contribute millions to our state economy.

My faith, which I share with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across Maryland, calls me to affirm justice, equity and compassion in our human relations. These values are foundational, supporting a judicial and immigration system that respects the worth and dignity of every person, a system based on trust – trust that our law enforcement and corrections officers and every state employee will follow the Constitution, our Maryland Declaration of Rights, trust that they will do the right thing.

I encourage you to issue a favorable report for **HB 1575**.

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