

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

**House Judiciary Committee**

**February 23, 2026**

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

My name is Shantanu Ghosh, and I am a resident of Hanover, Maryland. I am writing **in favor of HB1575 – the Community Trust Act**.

I support HB1575 because local jails and law enforcement across Maryland are voluntarily collaborating with ICE by honoring civil immigration detainers and holding individuals beyond their release dates without a judicial warrant. Federal courts across the country — including the U.S. Courts of Appeals — have held that ICE detainers alone do not provide sufficient legal authority to continue detention without a warrant supported by probable cause.<sup>1</sup> When local governments hold individuals past their lawful release time, they risk constitutional liability and costly litigation. In fact, jurisdictions nationwide have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in settlements for unlawful detentions based solely on ICE detainers.<sup>2</sup> Beyond legal risk, detention costs are significant; housing an individual in a local jail can cost taxpayers more than \$100 per day per detainee, depending on the jurisdiction.<sup>3</sup>

Research also shows that entangling local law enforcement with federal immigration enforcement undermines public safety. A 2013 national survey of law enforcement officials found that 70% believed that victims of crime are less likely to come forward if they fear immigration consequences.<sup>4</sup> More recent studies have similarly concluded that when immigrant communities fear contact with police, reporting of crimes declines — particularly for domestic violence and assault.<sup>5</sup> HB1575 does not prevent federal immigration enforcement; it simply requires a judicial warrant before continued detention and limits voluntary notification practices. By reinforcing constitutional safeguards and strengthening community trust, this bill promotes both fiscal responsibility and public safety.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB791/HB1575**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shantanu Ghosh  
Hanover, 21076

Sources Cited:

1. *Galarza v. Szalczyk*, 745 F.3d 634 (3d Cir. 2014) (holding ICE detainers are requests, not mandatory commands).
2. See, e.g., settlement in *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas County*, No. 3:12-cv-02317 (D. Or. 2014) (county paid damages for unlawful ICE detainer hold).
3. Vera Institute of Justice, *The Price of Jails: Measuring the Taxpayer Cost of Local Incarceration* (2015).
4. Police Executive Research Forum, *Local Police Perspectives on State Immigration Policies* (2013).
5. Tom K. Wong, *The Effects of Sanctuary Policies on Crime and the Economy*, Ctr. for Am. Progress (2017).