

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 Tatiana Santos, and I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB1575 – the Community Trust Act**.

Frederick County has a longstanding history of cooperating with ICE on immigration enforcement. Last year alone, more than 270 immigrants were turned over to ICE from our local Sheriff's department, which was up from 130+ the year prior (2024). There is no way crime has doubled in one year. The increase suggests that our sheriff strongly believes in supporting this administration's cruelty and does not intend to slow down. In fact, by his own admission in a FOX News interview recently, he stated that "[Local police] can continue to work with ICE without necessarily being in the program. We can still do the 48-hour holds on individuals with detainers, we can still contact ICE to let them know if an individual is about to be released with a detainer, we can also provide arrestee lists to ICE so they can review and check it." [1]

I support HB1575 because local jails and law enforcement across Maryland are voluntarily collaborating with ICE - holding people past their release dates and notifying ICE about individuals in custody, all without a judicial warrant. This is unconstitutional, wastes taxpayer dollars, and makes our communities less safe by eroding trust between residents and law enforcement.

From my immigrant advocacy work in Frederick County, I've met several immigrant neighbors who are afraid to go to work, to buy groceries, and to take their children to school. They are living in fear that once they step outside of their home, any run in with local law enforcement could put their family at further risk. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

This bill 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.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Santos

[1] Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/sheriffs-plot-ice-cooperation-workarounds-after-new-maryland-law-bans-cooperation-immigration-officers>