

From the Desk of Congressman David Trone

March 11, 2026

The Honorable Sandy Bartlett
Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Debra Davis
Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of *House Bill 1536 - Maryland Enforcement Limits and Transparency (MELT) Act*.

Maryland's strength comes from the many communities and families who call this state home. For those families to feel safe seeking medical care, attending school events, reporting crimes, or simply just living their everyday lives, they must trust that law enforcement will respect their rights and dignity.

In March 2025, Ruben Ray Martinez, a 23-year-old U.S. citizen, was killed during a traffic stop by federal agents. Renée Nicole Good, a 37-year-old mother and U.S. citizen, and Alex Pretti, another U.S. citizen, were also killed during federal enforcement actions. These tragedies, along with the dozens who have died in ICE custody during the Trump administration, are heartbreaking reminders of the human cost when enforcement operates without accountability.

Let me be clear: our outrage over these unjustified and tragic deaths is not about challenging federal authority. It is about defending civil liberties and preventing unnecessary harm—especially after we have witnessed law-enforcement encounters spiral into death and community trauma.

The legislation reflects these principles. It ensures that any cooperation with federal enforcement is bound by judicial oversight, that personal information is protected, and that officers and institutions uphold clear ethical standards. Beyond policy, it sends a message that Maryland values life, fairness, and accountability, and we will not be complicit in actions that harm our neighbors.

Supporting *House Bill 1536* is a moral imperative. Maryland must act to protect the most vulnerable, preserve public trust, and affirm that our communities are safe for all.

Respectfully,



David Trone
Former Member of Congress