

Testimony on House Bill 1575 – Favorable
HB1575 – Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions
(Community Trust Act)
House Judiciary Committee
February 25, 2026

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

My name is Cathy Morrison, and I am a resident of Marriottsville, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB1575 – the Community Trust Act.

Due process is a fundamental right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. It protects people against arbitrary government decisions and ensures fairness in legal matters. Both citizens and non-citizens in the U.S. have the right to due process - a chance to defend their rights and to have a fair hearing.

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. I recently attended a seminar which discussed human rights. We were warned to be careful before we called the local police if we saw what appeared to be a violation of due process because we couldn't be sure we "can trust" local police. How have we come to this?

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 HB1575**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathy Morrison