

Date of Hearing: February 25, 2026

Jo Shifrin

Bethesda, Maryland 20817

TESTIMONY ON HB 1575 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement
(Community Trust Act)

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Jo Shifrin

My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1575, Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Community Trust Act).

I am a retiree and moved to Bethesda in 2014. I'm a member of Adat Shalom, a Reconstructionist synagogue in Bethesda. My support for this legislation comes from my Jewish values. Among these values are *Tikkun Olam*, an obligation to make the world a more fair and equitable place and *Dei Machsoro*, a place where all people can live and thrive.

For the past year, federal agents have acted lawlessly. We have seen them make baseless arrests, abuse their authority and use excessive force. Although the Administration vowed to arrest only "the worst of the worst," we have seen ICE agents beat law-abiding residents and kill US citizens. Law enforcement officers across Maryland have voluntarily cooperated with ICE agents: they have held people past their release dates and notified ICE about individuals in their custody, all without judicial warrants. This collaboration erodes trust between residents and law enforcement agencies, makes our communities less safe, and is likely unconstitutional.

Approximately one month ago, the Department of Homeland Security sent a memo to ICE agents directing them to enter homes and other private spaces without a judicial warrant!

This bill simply requires a judicial warrant before anyone is held for ICE and stops local law enforcement officers from proactively and voluntarily 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 complicit in ICE agents' abusive and illegal activities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB 1575, Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Community Trust Act).