

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 40 and live in the Medfield neighborhood of Baltimore. **I am testifying in support of HB1575, the Community Trust Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Like the bill prohibiting formal 287(g) agreements, passage of this act is urgently needed as the federal government threatens to ramp up ICE activity in Baltimore and across the state. We must act now in order to protect Marylanders from the inhumanity and lawlessness of the Trump administration.

Maryland urgently needs this bill to pass because 23 of Maryland's 24 counties have nothing in place to prevent local correctional officers and facilities from choosing to abet ICE in its lawless acts of mass incarceration and deportation. **In 2025, these informal local collaborations were culpable for the transfer of over four times more Marylanders to ICE custody than were transferred through a formal 287(g) program. Most of these Marylanders had no criminal convictions.**

The Community Trust Act bars correctional officers/facilities from asking about people's immigration/citizenship status, detaining someone to investigate their status (or based on a request by the federal government), notifying the federal government that a particular person is in custody, or transferring a person to federal custody in the absence of a valid judicial warrant.

The Act does *not* prevent the Federal government from enforcing immigration laws, does *not* hide any information from ICE, and does *not* impede ICE's access to the FBI's National Crime Information Center ("NCIC") database, where anyone booked in a Maryland correctional facility will still have their fingerprints uploaded.

What the Act accomplishes is to draw a line between Maryland law-enforcement officials and federal immigration-enforcement agents, thereby working to restore community trust in local law enforcement. Without that trust, law enforcement cannot function effectively, and the people of Maryland cannot feel that they are being protected.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of HB1575, the Community Trust Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christina L. Bell
1301 W. 42nd St, Baltimore, Md 21211
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore