

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 Devin Krol, and I am a community member from Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB1575 – the Community Trust Act**.

I was born in Baltimore County and as a child attended Jewish day schools there. My father was born and raised in Baltimore City. His parents were Holocaust survivors, David and Rose Krol; they settled in Baltimore City and then the county when they arrived as refugees. My grandparents met and got married in a displaced persons camp after the Holocaust while waiting for an American sponsor in order to come here. My mother immigrated to Baltimore City from Argentina when she was just 6 years old and finally obtained her green card when she was a young adult, at around 20- quite the feat! As any immigrant to the USA will tell you it often takes years, even decades, to get a green card. My family background and Jewish education gave me a deep sense of justice and civil action, a need to repair the world called Tikkun Olam. This has led me to working towards immigrant justice; we must protect all members of our Maryland community regardless of their country of origin or documentation status.

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 have multiple loved ones who have missed school, graduation, and other life events as a result of their fear of ICE. Parents who have had to get Temporary Guardianship Agreement in order to protect their children if their worst fears come true and their family is ripped apart. How can we stand by as our friends, family, and neighbors live in a constant state of fear and mistrust? That is why the Community Trust Act is imperative to creating a safer and more just Maryland.

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. Nationally, 80% of people held in jails have not been convicted; many are awaiting trial, may be found not guilty, or have charges dropped altogether. When local law enforcement and correctional officers quietly and informally aid ICE, outside of the formal 287(g) program, it undermines the presumption of innocence and harms public safety by eroding trust.

This is the best tool to end the collusion and collaboration between local enforcement and ICE, outside the confines of 287(g), in order to keep families together and ensure the safety in our streets. By passing the Community Trust Act, the relationship and trust between our immigrant communities and local law enforcement could be rebuilt.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Devin Krol