



**Testimony in SUPPORT of
House Bill 1575: Correctional Services Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions
(Community Trust Act)**

**House Judiciary Committee
Position: Favorable
February 25, 2026**

At Strong Schools Maryland, we work to support the faithful implementation and full funding of the promises legislated through the landmark Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The Blueprint envisions a public education system where all students can feel safe and supported to learn and thrive in their school community. It was designed to specifically address systemic inequities that disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities. As a result, **Strong Schools Maryland offers favorable testimony in support of HB1575 Correctional Services Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act).**

The Community Trust Act draws a clear line between Maryland law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement. Right now, local jails and police across nearly every Maryland county voluntarily hold and transfer individuals to ICE without a judicial warrant. Many of these individuals have not been convicted of any crime. This informal collaboration turns local agencies into extensions of ICE's deportation machine, undermines the presumption of innocence, and erodes the community trust that keeps all Marylanders safe.

Immigration enforcement and the separation of families deeply undermines student safety and stability. When families fear separation, school attendance declines, students miss out on programming, and families disengage from school activities, all leading to disruptions that negatively impact academic outcomes and student well being. For example, the threat of immigration enforcement creates toxic stress for children, which research shows can increase risks of anxiety, depression, PTSD, and long term psychological distress. Furthermore, these harms fall disproportionately on Black and Brown students, many of whom are multilingual learners – the students the blueprint specifically prioritizes. Finally, when immigrant families withdraw from community institutions out of fear, they also disengage from essential services, including community school programming, early childhood education, and other wraparound supports embedded in the Blueprint.

¹ [How Strict Immigration Enforcement Harms School Children](#)

² [American Immigration Council](#)

³ [Immigration Enforcement and US Schools: What Could Happen and What Education Leaders Can Do](#)

HB1575 establishes important guardrails. 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.

The Blueprint is built on the principle that students need to feel safe and supported in their school communities. Each pillar of the Blueprint, from expanded early childhood education, to community schools, to equitable funding for multilingual learners, depends on meaningful family, community engagement, and trust in public systems.

If we are serious about our commitments made in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, we must ensure that immigrant students and families can engage fully in school life without fear that interactions with local authorities could result in detention or deportation. As a result, Strong Schools Maryland urges the General Assembly to end the collaboration between law and immigration enforcement in order to codify protections for our immigrant students and families in an effective and equitable manner.

For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland urges the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1575.

Please contact Kenzie Funk at kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.