

February 25, 2026

Deedee Jacobsohn
North Bethesda, MD 20852

**Testimony on House Bill 1575 – Favorable
HB1575 - Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement -
Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)**

To: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Deedee Jacobsohn

My name is Deedee Jacobsohn, and I am a resident of D16. I am writing in support of **HB1575 – the Community Trust Act**.

I am a member of B'nai Israel Congregation in Rockville, where I am active with both the Social Justice and Immigrant & Refugee Aid committees. I am also a paraeducator at Twinbrook Elementary where I work in the pre-k class. Jewish tradition emphasizes our responsibility to protect, support, and love the “sojourners” in our communities because we were once strangers ourselves. Our Torah also demands that we pursue justice, which combines protecting the vulnerable with an emphasis on fair legal systems. I always felt that this is echoed in the last line of the Pledge of Allegiance, which our school recites together every day: “with liberty and justice for all.” Yet today we see that **Maryland law enforcement officers are ignoring the requirements of the justice system and unconstitutionally collaborating with ICE, which has been targeting the most vulnerable members of our community.**

There are laws that define the process to be followed by asylum seekers and undocumented immigrants. Yet we have seen ICE detaining people who are following the procedures. Now, people who are arrested and held in local jails are being held past their release dates and turned over to ICE—without having been proven guilty of a civil infraction, much less a criminal offense. Local law enforcement should not be helping ICE circumvent the laws in ways that terrorize our immigrant

SB791 stops local officers from proactively contacting ICE about people in their custody. It does not prevent the federal government from enforcing immigration laws. Let's not erode the public trust in our local law enforcement officers by encouraging them to be informers.

I am horrified and broken-hearted after reading about neighbors who have lived here for decades, raising their families here and sending their children to our schools, who have been forcibly detained by ICE because their skin is not white. I am sickened that our neighbors are being held in inhumane conditions in ICE detention facilities, often out of state without access to family members or legal representation.

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