



TESTIMONY FOR HB1575
Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions
(Community Trust Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Phillips

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1575 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

It is beyond time to stop treating immigrants as though they are criminals. The majority of them come through the border and are permitted to stay in the country while they wait for their case to be adjudicated. Once it's adjudicated, most of them are allowed to stay and follow the path to citizenship, which can take years or decades to achieve. They get jobs, pay taxes, and are otherwise not different in any way from citizens except that they can't vote and don't get benefits.

Yes, there are criminals, but they are statistically such a small percentage of the population of immigrants that federal law enforcement should be able to deport them without having to resort to criminal behavior themselves. They need a **judicial** warrant to arrest someone, which should not be hard to achieve if the person committed a crime.

What we have now is truly extra-judicial. People being stopped in their cars or coming out of stores, churches, schools and other places. Having their houses broken into. Being threatened with semi-automatic weapons. None of this is necessary. We should not be living in a place where someone asks if you belong and arrests you if you can't come up with your 'papers'.

This bill, if enacted, prohibits a law enforcement agent from asking about an individual's immigration status, citizenship status, or place of birth during a stop or search. It also prohibits transferring or detaining an individual to ICE without a **judicial** warrant or notifying ICE of an individual's location information.

These are values we believe in. Values that our founding fathers expressed. We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.