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www.seiu32bj.org

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

Judiciary Committee

February 25th, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the
Committee,

My name is Jaime Contreras, and I am the Southern Regional Director and
Executive Vice President of 32BJ SEIU. I am pleased to offer favorable testimony in
support of **HB1575 – the Community Trust Act**.

32BJ SEIU represents over 185,000 members up and down the East Coast, over
4,000 of whom work here in Maryland. Our members are predominantly immigrants
and people of color, and make up the backbone of the property service industry:
they are the essential cleaners, security guards, airport workers, and other building
service workers who keep our homes, workplaces, schools, and transportation
hubs clean and safe. With our dedicated members, we fight to build communities
where immigrants can live free of fear and are treated with fundamental dignity and
respect.

As federal immigration policy becomes increasingly reckless, Maryland's
communities are under attack. Immigration arrests have increased across the
country and nearly tripled in Maryland.¹ Our union family is no exception: multiple
32BJ members have been subjected to unjust detention by ICE.

Although President Trump claimed that ICE would be targeting “dangerous
criminals,”¹ seventy three percent of those detained since October of last year had
no criminal conviction and only five percent had been convicted of a violent crime.²

The function of these indiscriminate and often violent detentions is to create fear
and undermine the social fabric of our communities. Maryland's law enforcement
officers – who are tasked with keeping us safe - should not have any part in this.
But under the current system, local jails and police across nearly every county
voluntarily hold and transfer individuals to ICE without a judicial warrant – even
where individuals have not committed a crime.

¹ Goldin, Melissa. Trump says he wants to deport ‘the worst of the worst.’ Government data tells another story.”
Associated Press. July 12, 2025. Available at: <https://apnews.com/article/fact-check-trump-immigration-crime-ice-criminal-dangerous-violent-99557d9d68642004193a9f4b7668162e>

² Bier, David. “5% of People Detained By ICE Have Violent Convictions, 73% No Convictions.” *CATO Institute*.
November 24, 2025. Available at: <https://www.cato.org/blog/5-ice-detainees-have-violent-convictions-73-no-convictions>.



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These practices undermine the presumption of innocence and grow distrust of law enforcement. They deter individuals from reporting crimes and may specifically deter workers from reporting labor violations due to fear of retaliation.

It is essential that a clear law is drawn between the Trump administration's political attacks and the work of local law enforcement agencies. As Governor Moore stated recently: "In Maryland, we defend Constitutional rights and Constitutional policing".

For these reasons, on behalf of 32BJ SEIU, I urge the committee to issue a favorable report on **HB1575**.

Sincerely,

Jaime Contreras
Southern Regional Director and Executive Vice President
32BJ SEIU

ⁱ Kate Amara & Khiree Stewart, *'It scares me': Marylanders protesting as data shows ICE arrests nearly tripled in 2025*, WBAL-TV 11 Baltimore, Jan 12, 2026.
<https://www.wbaltv.com/article/marylanders-protesting-data-ice-arrests-nearly-tripled-2025/69980610>