



House Judiciary Committee

February 25, 2026

**HB 1575 – Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement -
Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)**

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of 2,600 active members of the National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD), we respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 1575, the Community Trust Act.

Social workers serve individuals and families in schools, hospitals, behavioral health clinics, child welfare, community organizations, and correctional settings across Maryland. Our work depends on trust. Clients must feel safe seeking help for domestic violence, mental health needs, substance use, housing instability, and other crises. When individuals fear that interaction with local systems could expose them or their family members to immigration enforcement, they are far less likely to seek services, report crimes, or cooperate with public agencies.

HB 1575 strengthens clear boundaries between local public safety functions and federal immigration enforcement, while preserving compliance with valid judicial warrants. This clarity is essential. When communities understand that local law enforcement and correctional agencies are focused on public safety not civil immigration enforcement trust improves. That trust leads to earlier intervention, stronger cooperation with investigations, safer families, and healthier communities.

Fear has a chilling effect. For instance, survivors of domestic violence may not call police. Parents may avoid accessing behavioral health services for their children. Individuals experiencing crisis may not seek emergency care. These outcomes harm not only immigrant communities but public safety and public health statewide.

The NASW Code of Ethics affirms the dignity and worth of every person and the importance of human relationships. Social workers are ethically obligated to create environments where people can seek help without intimidation or coercion. HB 1575 supports that professional responsibility by ensuring consistent policies that promote community engagement and lawful practice.

Maryland's strength depends on communities that trust public institutions. By reinforcing that trust, HB 1575 supports effective service delivery, family stability, and safer neighborhoods for all residents.

(over)



For these reasons, NASW-MD respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 1575.

Thank you for your consideration

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Representing more than 2,600 social workers statewide