

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

House Judiciary Committee

February 25, 2026

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

My name is Alexandra Estes, and I am a resident from Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB1575 – the Community Trust Act.

Every day I am bombarded by stories of the horrible ways ICE is negatively impacting our community and our immigrant neighbors. What is happening here and across the nation goes against everything this country should stand for, and I believe the state of Maryland should be doing all it can to decrease ICE's ability to operate.

I support HB1575 because local jails and law enforcement across Maryland are voluntarily collaborating with ICE - holding people past their release dates and notifying ICE about individuals in custody, all without a judicial warrant. This is unconstitutional, wastes taxpayer dollars, and makes our communities less safe by eroding trust between residents and law enforcement.

I am volunteering with groups that are working to support immigrant families who have been negatively impacted by ICE. Every day I am hearing about families who can't leave their homes for fear of being abducted, they have to rely on strangers to help them get their kids safely to school. No person should have to live like this, and ICE should not be able to operate above the law.

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 state of Maryland has a moral obligation to end the cooperation between law enforcement and ICE so that all of our residents are treated fairly, have constitutional rights, and feel safe and protected.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Estes
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