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Committee: House Judiciary Committee
Testimony on: HB 1575 - Correctional Services and Public Safety -
Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust
Act)
Organization: Individual
Person Submitting: Philippa Gasnier
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 25, 2026

Dear Chairwoman Bartlett and members of the committee,

I am writing in favor of HB 1575 (Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)), which would establish uniform rules regarding the interaction of local agencies with ICE and DHS agents. We have seen that ICE, DHS, and other federal agents have acted without concern for the due process rights of our neighbors and have targeted hard-working Maryland residents who have never been convicted of any crime. When local agencies cooperate with ICE without transparency and uniformity, many Marylanders will consider them complicit in the unconstitutional acts by ICE. Our local law enforcement officers and agencies will lose all of the trust they have worked tirelessly to earn.

For years, Maryland has recognized that trust and accountability are crucial for effective law enforcement. Maryland has engaged in statewide training, local initiatives and legislative efforts (like the TRUST Acts) to build trust, foster collaboration, and solve problems to improve public safety and quality of life in our State. We need the uniform standards, transparency and accountability which would be provided for in the Community Trust Act to uphold our Maryland values and to maintain our trust in our Maryland officers and agencies.

I support HB-1575 as a critical measure, consistent with Maryland's long held understanding that effective law enforcement requires uniformity, transparency and accountability. I ask that you vote in favor of HB 1575 for a safer and better Maryland.

Thank you,
Philippa Gasnier