

February 25, 2026

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**TESTIMONY ON HBI575 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

**TO:** Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Mara Greengrass

**My name is Mara Greengrass. I am a resident of District 18. I am submitting this testimony in support of HBI575, Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act).**

I'm a lifelong Maryland resident, a member of Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, and I care about everyone in Maryland, regardless of their immigration status.

Every spring, Jews around the world celebrate the holiday of Passover, which describes our mistreatment at the hands of Pharaoh and the importance of not perpetuating his misdeeds. As noted in Leviticus: "The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

This commandment is repeated more times throughout the Torah than any other, showing its importance to the practice of Judaism. And during Passover, we also remind each other that we are not free until *everyone* is free.

I support HBI575 because law enforcement agencies across Maryland are voluntarily collaborating with ICE, including holding people past their release dates and notifying ICE about individuals in custody, all without a judicial warrant. This is unconstitutional, wastes money, and makes our communities less safe by eroding trust between residents and police.

HBI575 doesn't prevent law enforcement from protecting the public from actual dangers, it ensures that we are not mistreating the stranger among us for the crime of being a stranger.

Since 1864, Maryland has been known as The Free State and we should not assist the federal government in the shameful work of deporting our neighbors. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HBI575.**