
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

February 23, 2026

The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Opposition to House Bill 1575 – Correctional Services and Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions

Dear Chairwomen Bartlett and Committee Members,

On behalf of the citizens of Harford County, I write to express strong opposition to House Bill 1575.

Public safety must remain the foremost responsibility of government at every level. HB 1575 represents an unprecedented and deeply troubling attempt by the State to restrict communication and cooperation between local public safety authorities and federal law enforcement agencies. Preventing collaboration between law enforcement partners does not enhance public safety, it weakens it.

The bill's prohibitions attempts to impose a gag order on correctional officers and local law enforcement personnel by restricting their ability to communicate with federal immigration authorities absent narrow circumstances. Law enforcement agencies rely on cooperation and information sharing across local, state, and federal lines every day to prevent crime, apprehend dangerous offenders, and protect our communities. Mandating silence or limiting lawful collaboration undermines those partnerships.

Harford County has experienced firsthand the tragic consequences that can occur when violent offenders are not properly identified, detained, or transferred between jurisdictions. We have lost two citizens recently to violent criminal offenders who were in this country illegally. It is reasonable to ask whether stronger coordination between jurisdictions and agencies could have prevented those tragedies. Legislation that erects barriers between law enforcement agencies moves us in the wrong direction.

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Furthermore, HB 1575 attempts to micromanage operational decisions that are best left to trained law enforcement professionals. Decisions regarding communication with federal partners must remain within the discretion of local public safety leadership, who are accountable to their communities and best positioned to assess threats and risks. The State should not attempt to substitute a rigid statutory framework for the professional judgment of those charged with keeping our citizens safe.

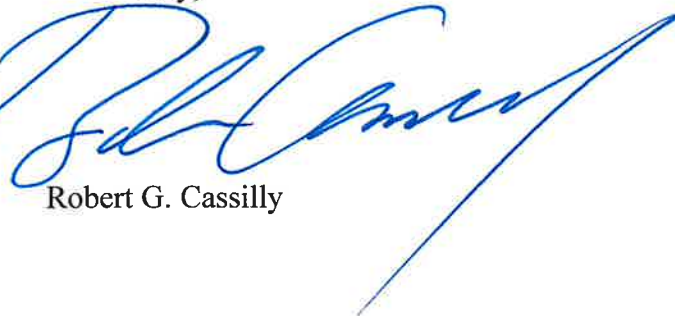
In addition to being ill-advised from a public safety standpoint, aspects of this legislation raise serious questions about enforceability and practicality. Restricting communication between law enforcement agencies is difficult to police in practice and risks creating confusion, hesitation, and liability concerns for officers attempting to navigate complex real-time situations.

Harford County supports lawful immigration policy and respects constitutional rights. However, we cannot support legislation that restricts legitimate intergovernmental cooperation and potentially endangers our residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1575.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Robert G. Cassilly