

January 22, 2026

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TESTIMONY ON HB# 1575- POSITION: FAVORABLE
Community Trust Act

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

FROM: Emily C. Blank

My name is Emily C. Blank. I am a resident of District 47a. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB #1575, the Community Trust Act

I am a retired economics professor (38 years at Howard University). I am also a member of congregation Oseh Shalom in Laurel, and a core leader of the Maryland chapter of Bend the Arc, Jewish Action

. Not everyone accused of a crime has actually committed one. Even those who have committed a crime deserve due process, and do not deserve to be left to the tender mercies of ICE/CBP. From all the reports I have heard, ICE detention facilities are concentration camps, not to put too fine a point on it. Further, in their apparent haste to turn the United States into an all-white country, citizens and legal residents have been swept up in the United States deportation system.

I realize that the Maryland legislature cannot stop ICE or the CBP, but I have strong objections to local and state police assisting them. Indeed, I would like to see Maryland police arrest ICE officers who break the law.

In short, I request that the legislature refrain from allowing police to turn anyone in their custody over to ICE,

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB# 1575.