

Judiciary Committee (Chair: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett)

House Bill 1575 (Community Trust Act)

Hearing: Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1:00pm

Position: Favorable

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Kristen Goodhue. I am a Roman Catholic and private citizen of Annapolis, Maryland, submitting written testimony in favor of the Community Trust Act, or House Bill 1575. This bill would prohibit our local police and correctional officers from facilitating immigration arrests by reaching out to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with information about someone's immigration status. I believe this bill is critical to our public safety. Collaborating with ICE in any way jeopardizes the ability of our local police to do their jobs and protect our communities.

Like many across the country, I have been horrified at the actions of ICE officers, against both citizens and noncitizens. However, even when federal immigration agents are operating properly, there are critical reasons that immigration enforcement and local law enforcement need to be kept separate. Local law enforcement depends on the trust of the community. To protect our streets, all residents—regardless of their immigration status—need to feel safe coming forward with information. Local law enforcement depends on residents to report crimes, offer witness testimony and share tips. If people are afraid of being deported for talking to local law enforcement, crimes will go unreported and dangerous criminals will be much harder to apprehend.

Last year, [ICE arrested over 3,000 Marylanders](#). Almost 1 in 3 (29%) were transferred to ICE from a local jail or other correctional facility. Many of those held in local jails have not been found guilty of any crime, and many are accused of only minor offenses like disorderly conduct or trespassing. This means potentially hundreds of innocent people in our state are being detained and deported by the federal government.

There is no legal requirement for local law enforcement to report someone's immigration status to the federal government, unless presented with a judicial warrant. Furthermore, nothing in this bill prevents federal immigration agents from doing their jobs. Anyone held in a Maryland detention facility already has their fingerprints and information uploaded to the FBI's National Crime Information Center. ICE agents can access the information in this database on their own. They do not need Maryland law enforcement to do their jobs for them, and allowing this is a waste of state tax dollars as well as a threat to public safety.

I was deeply proud to be a Marylander last week, when our governor signed the bill to end official collaborations with ICE in the form of 287(g) agreements. I hope you will take this vital

next step and end any collaborations with ICE, so our local law enforcement can continue to protect our communities the way they need to and our state can be safer for all its residents.

Thank you very much for attention and service.

Sincerely,

Kristen Goodhue