

Date of Hearing: 2/25/2026  
Jonathan Levitas  
Baltimore, MD 21230

**TESTIMONY ON HB#1575 - 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:** Jonathan Levitas

**My name is Jonathan Levitas. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1575, (The Community Trust Act).**

I am a resident of Riverside, in Baltimore, Maryland, and a member of Beth Am Congregation, the Riverside Neighborhood Association, and, lately, several mutual aid organizations. I continue to write on my own behalf, and on behalf of my family.

Thank you for passing the ban on 287(g) agreements. These agreements had become a stain on the conscience of our state, and I am grateful to see them gone. I write now in support of the Community Trust Act, which will ban unofficial cooperation between Maryland's law enforcement agencies and Federal immigration enforcement agencies.

The Community Trust Act is a vital piece of the legislative push to prohibit cooperation between state and local law enforcement agencies and Federal immigration enforcement in this dangerous time. Soon after the 287(g) ban passed, several county Sheriffs stated they would continue to cooperate with ICE in other ways. Harford County's Sheriff indicates he will continue to inform ICE of who is in his jail and to allow the agency to file detainers, while Carroll County's states he has drafted policy to allow communication with the Federal agency.

Most counties in Maryland already engage in informal collaboration with ICE. In 2025, these informal collaborations, rather than a 287(g) program, accounted for approximately 80 percent of the Marylanders transferred to ICE by state and local authorities. Accordingly, without the Community Trust Act, the 287(g) ban will have accomplished virtually nothing.

I appreciate that my state legislature is working to close this loophole and protect our population. I support this bill because I come from a family of immigrants, and this country welcomed us after so many in my family suffered horrors in their countries of origin, perpetrated by governments and government-supported vigilantes. It hurts me now to see our Federal government instead persecuting immigrants who just want to live in peace like my family did. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1575.