



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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HB 1536 Maryland Enforcement Limits and Transparency (MELT) Act
Judiciary Committee, March 11, 2026
SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. Founded in 1956, WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs, with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. WDC is known for its advocacy for law and policy to improve the lives of women and their families.

WDC urges swift passage of **HB1536 Maryland Enforcement Limits and Transparency (MELT) Act**. **The MELT Act is an important component of Maryland's efforts to limit voluntary cooperation with federal immigration enforcement and increase accountability.** Specifically, the MELT Act would:

- Prohibit persons or entities such as sheriff offices from voluntarily assisting Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE);
- Require that anyone assisting ICE maintain specific records of their actions;
- Authorize individuals injured by violations of this Act to file a civil lawsuit; and
- Empower the Attorney General to investigate and enforce the provisions of the Act.

Many states have enacted similar laws. Specifically, Illinois' TRUST Act (2021), Washington's Keep Washington Working Act, and Colorado's Restrict Government Involvement in Immigration Detention bill all limit or prohibit local law enforcement participation in immigration enforcement actions and detention agreements. Importantly, the MELT Act expands this prohibition to individuals or groups who "turn in" immigrants to ICE, which WDC applauds in light of reports last year that a Baltimore County public school teacher threatened to share the names of undocumented students with ICE. Immigrant students are already facing significant barriers: language access, cultural adjustment, and navigating a system that was simply not designed for them. To have to also fear their personal information being shared with ICE by a teacher is something no young person should have to face.

In addition, the MELT Act provides legal recourse for immigrants who feel that they have been victimized by a state or local agent working with ICE, by allowing the harmed individual to sue the agent in civil court. The Act's strengthening of the role of the Attorney General provides for accountability, which is critical to countering federal law enforcement's [disregard for civil liberties](#). The round up of millions of law-abiding immigrants who have lived, worked, raised a family, and paid taxes in the United States belies the myth that ours is the [land of opportunity](#). For many immigrants, it has become a site of fear, family separation, possible deportation, and death. This bill ensures that, at least at the state level, the law will be on the side of the most vulnerable and [frightened among us](#).

WDC urges swift passage of **HB1536 Maryland Enforcement Limits and Transparency (MELT)**.

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WDC President

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WDC Immigration Subcommittee

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