



Dear Chairs and Committee Members:

Jewish Voice for Peace Baltimore and Metro DC chapters are submitting testimony in support of HB1575 and SB791, the Community Trust Act.

With the passages of HB 444 and SB 245, Maryland is in the vanguard of opposition to President Trump's cruel, chaotic, and destructive campaign of mass deportation. However, even with the ban on 287(g) partnerships in the state, local counties' law enforcement and jail systems can still choose to coordinate with ICE outside of those formal agreements via inquiring about immigration status, detaining on behalf of ICE, and notifying/transferring to ICE, all without a judicial warrant. Indeed, there is speculation that law enforcement will effectively "ignore" the change and continue operating as largely before, simply without the formal agreement in place.¹

The vast majority of those held in or processed through county jails and therefore subject to these actions have not been convicted of a crime, let alone the extreme, violent crimes held up to justify ICE's escalations.² This local collaboration with ICE's unconstitutional overreach into our communities erodes public trust, threatens public safety, and continues the practice of using local resources for federal overreach.

We write to you as constituents and Jews of conscience, horrified by what is unfolding in our community and across the nation. We stand backed by Jewish legal tradition that says that aiding in an unjust prosecution or imprisonment is prohibited.³ These unjust detentions targeting our neighbors must be stopped: at the very least, we must curtail local contributions to these actions.

We respectfully urge our legislators to return a **favorable report on HB1575 and SB791.**

¹ Hogan says law enforcement will 'ignore' ICE legislation backed by Wes Moore
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/hogan-says-law-enforcement-will-ignore-ice-legislation-backed-by-wes-moore/ar-AA1WGhiZ?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

² New ICE arrest data show the power of state and local governments to curtail mass deportations
<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2025/12/11/ice-jails-update/>

³ How Should an Ethical Prosecutor Act if the Jails are Unsafe? Lessons from Jewish Law Part 1
<https://canopyforum.org/2020/05/12/how-should-an-ethical-prosecutor-act-if-the-jails-are-unsafe-lessons-from-jewish-law-part-1/>