

**Testimony on House Bill 1575 – Favorable
HB1575– Correctional Services & Public Safety –
Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)
Judiciary Committee**

February 23, 2026

Dear Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,
I am a Baltimore City resident and I am in a group of women who are funders and active in State and local politics. We follow legislation closely and track who supports or votes against legislation that ensures Maryland upholds the constitution and treats all humans fairly. I am writing **to urge you to vote for HB1575**, Community Trust Act, without amendments.

Maryland currently enables President Trump's cruel and lawless mass deportation agenda by allowing localities to voluntarily funnel immigrants into ICE custody. Entirely separate from formal 287(g) agreements, in 23 of 24 counties, local law enforcement and jails still notify or hold and transfer individuals to ICE. The Attorney General and extensive case law have found that honoring ICE administrative requests to detain individuals without a judicial warrant is illegal and could lead to civil lawsuits. Continued voluntary collusion with this ICE's paramilitary forces is a political choice that wastes Maryland taxpayer dollars and makes our communities less safe.

This informal and illegal collaboration has funneled 4 times more Marylanders – most of whom had no criminal conviction (I repeat NO CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS) into the deportation pipeline—than under 287(g) agreements. Shockingly, 23 of 24 Maryland counties informally assist ICE in this way. Furthermore, Maryland sheriffs who currently have 287 (g) agreements have boasted that they will continue to cooperate with ICE on an informal basis, openly flouting the intent of the General Assembly. Continued voluntary collusion with this ICE's paramilitary forces is a political choice that wastes Maryland taxpayer dollars and makes our communities less safe. The Community Trust Act would affirmatively ban this practice, ceasing Maryland's complicity in the Trump administration's inhumane mass deportation agenda.

As a Maryland resident and your constituent, I do not want Maryland's public safety resources used to support the Trump administration's quota-driven deportation dragnet. I call on you to close all existing loopholes that allow Maryland's law enforcement and correctional facilities to aid and abet ICE's lawlessness.

For the safety of our communities, the integrity of our legal system, and the protection of Maryland families, I respectfully urge a favorable report on the Community Trust Act.

Sincerely,

Erin Hodge-Williams, LCSW-C
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