

Hearing Date: February 25, 2026
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Odenton Maryland 21113

Testimony on House Bill 1575 – Favorable
HB1575 – Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement -
Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Susan W. Tafler, and I am a resident of Maryland District 21. I am writing in support of HB 1575 – the Community Trust Act.

I am the granddaughter of four immigrants from Eastern Europe who came to America for freedom from forced conscription and freedom from arrest for unionizing activities as well as better economic opportunities and safety from antisemitic pogroms. They came to America in the 1910s, before the restrictive immigration laws of the 1920s (and later) were enacted. If my grandparents had been forced to stay in Eastern Europe or sent back from America, my parents, uncles, and aunts would not have been born as US citizens and likely would have perished in the Holocaust. And I, who was born in 1947, would likely never have been born.

As a Jew guided by our sacred texts, I am mindful that the Bible commands us: “When strangers [immigrants] reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The sojourners who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19: 33-34).

It was only a month ago that I submitted testimony to your committee in support of the bill ending 287(g) agreements in Maryland, and I was delighted that Governor Moore very recently signed that bill. Now I find out that local jails and law enforcement across Maryland are still voluntarily collaborating with ICE--holding people past their release dates and notifying ICE about individuals in custody, all without a judicial warrant. This is unconstitutional, wastes taxpayer dollars, and makes our communities less safe by eroding trust between residents and law enforcement. Most people in local jails have not been convicted of any crime at all, and many are accused only of low-level offenses like trespassing or disorderly conduct.

I support HB 1575 because it will simply require a judicial warrant before anyone is held for ICE and stops local officers from proactively contacting ICE about people in their custody. It does not prevent the federal government from enforcing immigration laws; it just ensures that Maryland is not doing ICE's job for them. Immigration enforcement by ICE is a federal responsibility and already funded at an unprecedented level; continued voluntary collaboration is a political choice that wastes Maryland taxpayer dollars and makes our communities less safe.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1575