

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 46. I am also the descendant of immigrants; my grandparents came to the USA about 120 years ago. At that time, they were the targets of discrimination because of their faith. Despite that ill-treatment, they survived and thrived. Now, I owe it to them to advocate for fair treatment of today's immigrants. **I am testifying in support of HB1575, the Community Trust Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland urgently needs this bill to pass, because 23 of Maryland's 24 counties have nothing in place to prevent local correctional officers and facilities from choosing to abet ICE in its lawless acts of mass incarceration and deportation. In 2025, these informal local collaborations were culpable for the transfer of over four times more Marylanders to ICE custody than were transferred through a formal 287(g) program. Most of these Marylanders had no criminal convictions.

The Community Trust Act bars correctional officers/facilities from asking about people's immigration/citizenship status, detaining someone to investigate their status (or based on a request by the federal government), notifying the federal government that a particular person is in custody, or transferring a person to federal custody in the absence of a valid judicial warrant.

The Act does *not* prevent the Federal government from enforcing immigration laws, does *not* hide any information from ICE, and does *not* impede ICE's access to the FBI's National Crime Information Center ("NCIC") database, where anyone booked in a Maryland correctional facility will still have their fingerprints uploaded.

What the Act accomplishes is to draw a line between Maryland law-enforcement officials and federal immigration-enforcement agents. Hence the name: the Act is a step toward restoring community trust in local law enforcement. Without that trust, law enforcement cannot function effectively, and the people of Maryland cannot feel that they are being protected. All my grandparents wanted, and all today's immigrants also want, is to be treated fairly, to be treated like any other member of our society. We all want to feel safe and we all want our law enforcement officers to keep us that way.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of HB1575, the Community Trust Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jan Kleinman  
250 President ST Unit 508  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore