

Testimony on House Bill 1575 - Favorable

HB 1575 - Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)

House Judiciary Committee

February 25, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis and Members of the Committee,

I, Cynthia Sokolow, **support HB 1575 - the Community Trust Act.**

Marylanders are concerned about our immigrant neighbors who are fearful of being detained. While we cannot prohibit ICE from enforcing current immigration laws, we can prevent Maryland law enforcement from cooperating with ICE. HB 1575 clarifies that local and state correctional facilities' agents may not collaborate with ICE without a judicial warrant.

We learn daily from news sources that immigrant families are afraid of leaving their homes. Parents keep their children from attending classes. Compassionate neighbors volunteer to grocery shop for them or escort kids to school bus stops.

All communities in Maryland must feel that local law enforcement will keep them safe. I suspect police officers did not sign up to collaborate with ICE to terrorize our residents. Some counties don't have the financial resources to add ICE cooperation. State and local police need to prioritize fighting crime, not innocent neighbors.

Both my mother and mother-in-law were cared for by immigrants. As a retired Howard County school professional, I know a large percentage of students come from other countries. I've heard from DACA adults, who came to Maryland as toddlers, talk of their scientific research at Hopkins.

Our taxes pay for state and local police to protect all of us in Maryland, not join a modern day "gestapo" to intimidate.

I urge the House Judiciary Committee to **issue a favorable report on HB 1575.**

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Sokolow, 21042