

Testimony on House Bill 1575 – Favorable

HB1575 – 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,

My name is Ruth White and I live in Howard County MD, in District 13, I am writing in support of HB1575 – the Community Trust Act.

I have heard and read how ICE and other federal agencies are not using required Judicial Warrants in their work.

I support HB1575 because local jails and law enforcement across Maryland are 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.

I live in fear for foreign born residents in my city and county. And this fear is not just for the foreign born. I have a relative whose grandparents are/were immigrants (one is still living and one passed). . Who could not be mistaken for an immigrant?

This bill simply requires 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.

It is essential that all in the community feel free to report crimes and disturbances to local authorities. I, and my friends and family members, are less safe when a large number of our neighbors do not trust that they will be safe if they contact local and state police or other local agencies. I would like to see ICE and other similar agencies start using Judicial Warrants and constitutional due process in all that they do. Certainly this is the minimum Maryland can do.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB791/HB1575.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruth White