

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

House Judiciary Committee

February 23, 2026

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

My name is Vanessa Deutschmann, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB1575 – the Community Trust Act**.

I am personally connected with individuals living in Maryland with *full legal status* to be in the United States who feel so insecure due to the recent aggressive and extrajudicial tactics of ICE that they live in fear of living their lives freely, such as going to the grocery store. I want to tell them they are overreacting – but I cannot in good conscience say that. We must take all actions possible to restore this badly broken trust.

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.

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.

A community that cannot trust its law enforcement officials to act in support of our constitutional rights and those of our neighbors is in grave danger. This does not have to be a threat to us in Maryland.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Deutschmann
Columbia, MD