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TESTIMONY FOR HB1575

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

Bill Sponsor: Delegates Phillips, Acevero, Addison, et al.

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD)

Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, co-founder

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony **in favor of HB1575** on behalf of Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD). IBBMD is a group of several hundred grassroots activists in Bowie and surrounding areas in Prince George's County, working to bring justice, equality, and people-centric legislation to Maryland.

Across Maryland, even outside 287g agreements, local jails and law enforcement are voluntarily collaborating with Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) by holding people past their release dates and notifying ICE about individuals in custody. Many of these individuals have not been convicted of any crime. This informal collaboration turns local law enforcement into an extension of ICE's deportation machine, undermines the presumption of innocence, and erodes the community trust that keeps all Marylanders safe. This has affected my own immigrant friends, who fear going out into the community even for simple errands like going to the grocery store. If they see local police vehicles of any kind, they leave the area rather than risk an encounter that could lead to deportation. By the way, this includes immigrants who are documented.

HB1575 requires a judicial warrant before an individual is held for ICE, and prevents local law enforcement from proactively contacting ICE about persons in their custody. It also shores up due process by requiring a judicial warrant. In this era when ICE is randomly snatching people off the streets and out of their cars, this bill provides a

needed backstop to prevent people being deported with not even a modicum of due process.

IBBMD supports due process for all, including immigrants of any status. We also believe that Maryland has a moral obligation not to support the random and unjust deportation of law-abiding immigrants. IBBMD urges that you support HB1575 and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.