

HB 1575

Miner L. Moe) Brown

FAVORABLE

Title: Correctional Services and Public Safety- Immigrant Enforcement-Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)

**Judiciary Committee: Chair: Sandy Bartlett; Vice-Chair-Debra Davis
Sponsored by Over 40 members from the House of Delegates**

This testimony is written in urgent support of House Bill 1575 (Correctional Services and Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement-Prohibitions.

I am a 37-year resident of MD and District 11B, and a 2nd and 3rd generation citizen. I am a husband, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, Eagle Scout & Silver Beaver Awardee, an original WE ARE CASA Ally, an active member of the Social Justice Action Committee at our local congregation, a long-time naturalist guide and Irvine Nature Center's 1st Life Time Achievement Awardee, a past Red Hat volunteer for Habitat for Humanity (9+ years), and an AARP Driver Safety Education Instructor.

I personally thank Delegates Bartlett and Davis in recognizing the threat to our democracy the current situation poses and their leadership role in this most serious legislative process.

Illegally holding individuals past their scheduled release from local jails for minor misdemeanors is morally unacceptable and just wrong. Extensive case law and our Attorney General have found that honoring ICE detainers without a judicial warrant is illegal and could lead to civil lawsuits. It is now imperative that a line be drawn between our community and state law enforcement officials and federal immigration enforcement agents. **Current events have made such coordination unsustainable. Informal law enforcement collaboration with ICE agents must stop!!** Our immigrant community members are hard-working, dependable, law abiding, contributing tax paying members, and business owners. In short, they are an integral part of the fabric of the strength of Maryland. **We must now do everything in our legal power that will affirmatively ensure that Maryland NOT help Trump i.e. ICE, funnel our immigrant friends and neighbors into the deportation pipeline.**

It is unfortunate but now necessary to take such measures never thought required to help safe Maryland and our country from rapidly moving toward an Autocratic form of government by **approving HB1575.**