

Bill: HB675
Position: Unfavorable
Committee: Judiciary Committee
March 2, 2026

Unfavorable Testimony for HB675 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – Immigration Enforcement Agreements

Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis and esteemed members of the Committee,
My name is Coen Doss, and I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, a member of Maryland's LGBTQIA+ community, and a resident of Legislative District 32. I am writing today in **strong opposition of HB675**.

While this bill is framed as a public safety measure, in reality it would result in decreased trust in law enforcement, deterrence from accessing essential services, and increased anxiety among immigrant communities. Additionally, it would have a devastating and disproportionate impact on Maryland's LGBTQ+ immigrant community. Maryland has long recognized the importance of protecting its vulnerable residents. In fact, this very body established the Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs to "assess the challenges facing LGBTQIA+ communities" and "offer testimony on issues concerning LGBTQIA+ persons". The Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs even specifically includes "law enforcement" and "legal rights" among its advisory fields. HB675 directly undermines that mission by creating an environment of fear that prevents vulnerable populations from accessing some of the very protections the Commission was designed to study and improve.

For LGBTQ+ individuals, the intersection of immigrant status and sexual orientation or gender identity creates unique vulnerabilities. Many LGBTQ+ immigrants come to the United States fleeing persecution in their home countries based on who they love or who they are. When state and local police are tasked with enforcing federal immigration law, it destroys the fragile trust that LGBTQ+ immigrants have in law enforcement.

Immigration enforcement agreements do not make our communities safer. They make everyone less safe by deteriorating the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve. When police are seen as immigration agents, witnesses to crimes fear coming forward and victims are afraid to report. Instead, policies should focus on building trust and protecting all Marylanders, including our most vulnerable LGBTQ+ residents.

For these reasons, **I urge an unfavorable report of HB675.**

Thank you for your consideration.