



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

www.womensdemocraticclub.org

**HB 1575 - Correctional Services and Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Prohibitions
(Community Trust Act)
Judiciary Committee - February 25, 2026
SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. Founded in 1956, WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs, with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. WDC is known for its advocacy for law and policy to improve the lives of women and their families.

WDC urges swift passage of **HB 1575- Correctional Services and Public Safety- Immigration Enforcement- Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)** We support the Community Trust Act because when immigrants feel safe and welcomed, [the data show that crime rates are lower and local economies are stimulated](#). Moreover, [immigrants are more likely to report crimes when local police do not act as immigration agents](#), perhaps because they fear deportation less.

Maryland has a [large immigrant population \(about 17%\)](#) whose members contribute to the vibrancy and economy of the state. Many of these immigrants, even those who are citizens, [fear profiling by Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\) agents](#) or local police who work in support of ICE. ICE agents, [at times with the assistance of local law enforcement officers](#), have detained people with no criminal history.

This Act will make it illegal for a member of a correctional services unit to notify ICE that an individual is in custody unless there is a valid court order for that purpose. Penalties will ensue for such employees if they violate the law. Additionally, any person who has been harmed by a such a notification to ICE can bring civil action against the violator.

While several counties—including Montgomery, Baltimore, Prince Georges, and Howard—have already passed Trust acts, WDC believes it is time for the MGA to do the same. If enacted, the Maryland Community Trust Act, in conjunction with the [recently passed law that prohibits state and local jurisdictions from deputizing officers for federal civil immigration enforcement activity](#), will protect the constitutional rights of law-abiding members of the immigrant community across the state.

WDC applauds the sponsors of **HB 1575, the Community Trust Act**. We ask for your support for **HB1575** and strongly urge swift passage.

Cynthia Rubenstein
WDC President

Alison O'Brien
Immigration Subcommittee

Kate Stein
WDC Advocacy Chair