

HB 1536: Maryland Enforcement Limits and Transparency (MELT) Act: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 1536** during committee consideration or floor votes.

This bill significantly undermines public safety. Federal immigration authorities often seek individuals for serious crimes, violent offenses, human trafficking, child exploitation, gang activity, or national security threats. Prohibiting voluntary cooperation allows dangerous individuals to be released back into Maryland communities, increasing risks to residents, law enforcement officers, and victims.

HB 1536 prioritizes illegal immigration status over accountability for criminal conduct. The bill also creates liability risks for sheriffs, police chiefs, and correctional officials who attempt to comply with federal requests, impeding lawful information-sharing **even when public safety is at stake.**

Maryland should not enact statewide policies that obstruct federal law enforcement or **create protections for individuals who have committed crimes.** Local jurisdictions already have flexibility to set cooperation policies; **imposing a one-size-fits-all ban from Annapolis overrides local control and endangers communities.**

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against HB 1536.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this critical public safety and law enforcement issue.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals