

Testimony on House Bill 1575 – Favorable
HB1575 – Correctional Services and
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement – Prohibitions (Community Trust Act)
House Judiciary Committee

Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of Howard County and chair the Immigration Mobilization Committee of St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Community Baltimore. I am also the proud granddaughter of immigrants and come from a very large law enforcement family. In fact, my father served for 32 years as a detective with the New York Police Department. He worked with immigrant communities and impressed upon me the importance of trust in law enforcement.

My support of HB 1575 is grounded in my faith, personal experience and my role as citizen.

My faith calls upon me to recognize all people as children of God, entitled to dignity and care. Consistent with the teaching of the biblical prophets, the words of Jesus, and Catholic social teaching, my faith has led to my participation in parish immigration mobilization efforts. In addition to advocacy and direct ministry to others regardless of immigration status, we as a parish publicly witness and pray the Rosary at the Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore, for all immigrants, migrants and those in danger of deportation, especially for those detained by ICE in that building.

I have personally witnessed ICE detention actions immediately in front of my own home in Ellicott City. Eight agents, in two SUVs, wearing masks and military-type clothing and equipment surrounded and detained a gentleman who had merely been driving by.

While the General Assembly has passed and Governor Moore has signed legislation banning 287g agreements between ICE and local and state law enforcement for which I applaud you, local jails and law enforcement across Maryland still voluntarily collaborate with ICE - holding individuals past release dates and notifying ICE about individuals in custody, without a judicial warrant. This is unconstitutional, and similar to 287g agreements, renders communities less safe by eroding the essential trust between residents and law enforcement.

HB 1575 requires a judicial warrant before an individual is held for ICE. It prevents local officers from proactively contacting ICE about people in their custody. It does not prevent the federal government from enforcing immigration laws nor prevent the cooperation of law enforcement with their federal partners in criminal enforcement. For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB791/HB1575**.

Rosanne B. Hanratty Ellicott City, Maryland