

January 13, 2026

Adam Myers

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF EXPEDITED BILL 35-25
Promoting Community Trust - Immigrant Protections Act

TO: Council President Fani-González, Vice President Balcombe, and members of the County Council

FROM: Adam Myers

My name is Adam Myers. I am a resident of Bethesda, MD in District 1. I am submitting this testimony in support of Expedited Bill 35-25, Promoting Community Trust – Immigrant Protections Act.

First, I want to start by thanking Council President Fani-González for her leadership on this legislation and the other Councilmembers for being bill sponsors. I'm part of the congregation of Adat Shalom, and my connection to my Jewish heritage has only enhanced the obligation I feel to stand in solidarity with other marginalized groups under attack like black and brown communities, the trans and queer communities, and of course immigrants, documented or otherwise—particularly with the terrifying parallels many like myself see between MAGA and the Nazi party, like using ICE as a modern day Gestapo, the platforming of antisemites like Nick Fuentes by Tucker Carlson, or the sieg heil Elon Musk did at President Trump's inauguration. I wrote a 71 page research essay on parallels between these two groups back in 2023 and every day I see it come more and more into reality. I cannot and will not stay silent as what happened to my people happens to others.

As Jews, we have a long history of being targeted, being exiled, being scapegoated. But in this country, many Jews have managed to secure upward mobility many other groups—including immigrants like our grandparents and great-grandparents once were—have not. Our history and teachings demand of us to help others the way we have been helped, and equally if not more so the ways we wish to have been helped.

I am a firm believer in human rights for all, and my belief is that if someone lives in this country that makes them an American and worthy of the same rights and protections the most privileged among us are granted freely.

I have been immensely lucky to be born into a loving and supportive family, strong economic stability, and with a gender and appearance that has allowed me to be confident in receiving safety and support. As such, I see myself having obligations to help make those things possible for those they are currently not. Empathy and compassion are what allow humanity to thrive, and I feel our tax dollars must go to that mission first and foremost. We must stand firmly alongside the most vulnerable and protect them from the violence that they are facing, no matter its source. Otherwise, how can we think ourselves different from those in our shameful pasts who looked away when they were needed most?

I'm deeply proud of our county for the TRUST act that demands noncompliance with ICE from so many of our institutions so we may protect the most vulnerable among us. It's a move I hope will hopefully be embraced by our state at large and beyond—a big step in the right direction for a fight I'm sure will ask much of us as individuals and as a community.

There is more we can do and more we must do, but for today **I urge the Council to pass Expedited Bill 35-25, Promoting Community Trust, quickly and without any weakening amendments.**