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Testimony in support of Expedited Bill 35-25

County Administration – Immigrant Protections

(“Promoting Community Trust – Immigrant Protections Act”)

To: President Natali Fani-Gonzales, Vice-president Marilyn Balcombe and Members of the Montgomery County Council

From: Jerry Kickenson, Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network

Date: January 13, 2026

We are writing in **support of Expedited Bill 35-25 County Administration – Immigrant Protections (“Promoting Community Trust – Immigrant Protections Act”)**, on behalf of the Congregation Action Network (CAN). The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With congregations and members throughout the capital area, including congregations with hundreds of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

As people of faith committed to justice and compassion for immigrants, we adhere to the sacred texts of most major faiths that call for welcoming the stranger and treating each other with love, dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be treated fairly and have the same protections as all Maryland residents.

Expedited Bill 35-25 will codify in County ordinance the 2019 [Executive Order 135-19](#), which aimed to ensure that the immigrant community could engage with the County government, including public safety agencies, knowing that engagement would not be used to support civil immigration enforcement, as well as add concrete exceptions and require certain reporting requirements.

We respectfully urge you to vote **YES** to **Expedited Bill 35-25**. It will help reduce the fear of Montgomery County residents accessing critical services and while exercising their right to religious expression, make our County safer for all, and send a strong statement that Montgomery County stands with *all* its residents.

Respectfully yours,
Jerry Kickenson
Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator
Congregation Action Network
Silver Spring, MD