

January 13, 2026

Jo Shifrin

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: Jo Shifrin

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

I first want to thank Council President Fani-González for her leadership on this legislation and thank the Council for being bill sponsors. I am a retiree, the granddaughter of Russian and Polish immigrants, and a member of the synagogue Adat Shalom. Since before the founding of the United States, immigrants have built this country. Unfortunately, the U.S. has a history of treating immigrants as outsiders. But immigrants have been –and are now– our coworkers, classmates, friends, and family members. My values, Jewish values, include repairing the world (*tikkun olam*), the pursuit of justice (*tzedek*), and ensuring all people are treated with dignity and respect (*dereckh eretz*). Beyond my values, I am guided by the fact that I have cousins who were born in Guatemala and now call the United States home.

Montgomery County is one of the most diverse counties in the country. Having witnessed videos of people being pulled from their cars, thrown to the ground, and beaten, I do not want to live in a community that would allow my neighbors to be treated that way. I believe:

- It is imperative that County police not voluntarily cooperate with ICE
- It is incumbent upon us, as a diverse community, to outlaw discrimination based upon immigration status
- ICE should be restricted from entering sensitive locations without a judicial warrant

This bill will make clear that without a judicial warrant, ICE does not have the legal authority to terrorize our friends, family, and neighbors in Montgomery County. And further, that County resources will not be used to voluntarily assist ICE. **I urge the Council to pass Expedited Bill 35-25, Promoting Community Trust, quickly and without any weakening amendments.**