

January 13, 2026

Michelle Mazurek

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: Michelle Mazurek

My name is Michelle Mazurek. I am a resident of Silver Spring in District 4. I am submitting this testimony in support of Expedited Bill 35-25, Promoting Community Trust – Immigrant Protections Act.

I am an MCPS parent, a professor at the University of Maryland, and a member of Temple Emanuel in Kensington. I would like to thank Council President Fani-González and all the co-sponsors for your leadership on this issue.

Immigrants are my co-workers, neighbors, friends, and the parents of other students at my daughter's middle school (Eastern). They are important and valued members of our community in Montgomery County. The current environment – with neighbors being threatened and even kidnapped – is terrifying and infuriating. When County resources are used to assist ICE, an already terrible situation only gets worse, and more trust that is essential to our community is broken – frightened country residents stop calling for, stop using county resources, stop reporting abuse, and stop seeking essential care. Montgomery County must do better to stand up for our neighbors and our values. Bill 35-25 will end local cooperation with ICE and stop our County resources from being used to separate families and terrorize neighbors.

As a computer science professor who has spent 15 years researching and teaching digital security and privacy, I study professionally the importance of privacy rights to healthy societies, and the detrimental chilling effects that privacy violations can have on communities and individuals. Bill 35-25 will protect privacy by preventing unnecessary collection of immigration status information, making it easier for immigrants and their families to participate in public life.

As an educator, I know that fear and stress make it very difficult for my students to do their best work, to learn, and to achieve their educational goals. My daughter's middle school has a large population of immigrants and children of immigrants, and I know the fear that immigrant families are living with, which impacts people's willingness to send their children to school as well as their ability to access food assistance, social services, and medical care. It is heartbreaking to see these effects in my community. Bill 35-25 will restrict ICE access in sensitive locations such as schools and help to reduce this fear and stress.

Further, as the granddaughter of immigrants, refugees, and Holocaust survivors, I benefited from the lives my grandparents were able to build in the U.S. They started their lives over, starting with almost nothing, in the 1930s and 40s. Today's immigrants deserve the same chance to build

new lives here, raise their families, and contribute to our community, and they deserve to do so without fear.

With my **strongest conviction, I urge the Council to pass** Expedited Bill 35-25, Promoting Community Trust, quickly and without any weakening amendments.