

## Testimony in Support of The Trust Act

1-7-2026

To the Honorable Council

Greetings

My name is Robert Alex Stubblefield and I am a poet, lay minister and activist-organizer with a variety of organizations such as The Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition, DSA, Young People for Progress and a founder of both The Black United Front Of Moco and Moco Liberation Collective. Just as important, I am a lifelong resident of Montgomery County and while a member of these respective orgs, I am writing this as a citizen of Montgomery County. I am writing in support of the Immigrant Protections Act, better known as the Trust Act. My reasons are explained below.

The first reason why I support the Trust Act and why it must be passed in Montgomery County is that a significant number of our population is immigrant and immigrants are our neighbors, friends, co-workers, pastors, teachers, loved ones etc and they deserve to live in a place without fear of being snatched by ICE agents who masquerade as modern day Gestapo and Mussolini's blackshirts. Yet when County resources, which I find strange given how we always hear that we are in a budget crisis, yet when County resources are somehow allocated to help ICE, not only does it create problems with the governance of Montgomery County, but it creates distrust. Trust among communities is broken. Families are broken with children being forced to grow up quicker than they're supposed because Parents are snatched up. It also has the delirious effect that people no longer call for help, no longer report abuse and no longer seek essential care, which cascades into other issues such as healthcare. The Trust Act would send a strong message to our immigrant population that you are safe and can live their lives knowing that they are protected.

The second reason why I support the Trust Act because it combats the inhumanity of ICE. Given the recent martyrdom of Renee Gold in Minneapolis, a legal observer shot by an ICE agent, this Trust Act would end voluntary cooperation with ICE. It would outlaw discrimination based on immigration which is unacceptable in our society, but discrimination based on immigration violates Scripture. As it says in the Book of Leviticus 19:33-34, "When a foreigner comes to dwell among you, do not mistreat them, The foreigner living among you must be treated as your native-born for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt." This Act affirms that Scripture. Additionally it also stop unnecessary collection of immigration status which expands the police state putting everyone, not just our immigrant neighbors under increased surveillance and it ensures that county resources is not used to separate families. This Act strengthens our position saying essentially, immigrants yes, Fascists no.

In Closing, The Trust Act is vital especially in these times. By passing and signing into law, it will send a message of community here.

Thank you

Robert Alex Stubblefield