

Amy Waychoff

Expedited Bill 35-25

Opposed

13 January 2026

Good afternoon, members of the Council. My name is Amy Waychoff, and I have lived in Montgomery County for 38 years. I am here today to strongly oppose Expedited Bill 35-25, also known as the Trust Act. While proponents claim this bill is about "trust," it actually functions as a sanctuary policy that undermines the rule of law and endangers public safety by shielding criminal illegal aliens from federal authorities.

By prohibiting county employees from investigating immigration status and strictly limiting cooperation with federal immigration officials, this bill builds a "wall" between local law enforcement and ICE. One of the primary lessons of 9/11 was that a lack of information sharing and cooperation between local and federal authorities leads to fatal mistakes. In particular, a number of the hijackers were illegal aliens who had subverted our immigration laws. This legislation ignores that lesson and directly contradicts federal statutes, such as the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, which bars local governments from prohibiting the exchange of information regarding immigration status with federal officials.

Sanctuary legislation actually hurts the immigrant community the most. In the summer of 2019 in Montgomery County, a series of heinous sex crimes perpetrated by illegal aliens against women and children shocked the nation. In one case, two illegal aliens from El Salvador raped an 11-year-old girl on multiple occasions in Germantown. They were friends with her older brother.¹ More recently, an Salvadoran gang member — also in our county illegally — was convicted in 2023 of accessory to murder. After serving his sentence, the Montgomery County Circuit Court ignored ICE's immigration detainer and released him, requiring ICE to detain him near his residence in Silver Spring.² By releasing these individuals, you are not protecting "vulnerable communities;" you are protecting the criminals who often prey on those very same immigrant neighborhoods.

It is important to remember that every crime committed by an illegal alien is 100 percent preventable because the perpetrator should not have been in the country to begin with. Statistics show that illegal aliens are at least three times more likely to be incarcerated than U.S. citizens and legal immigrants.³

Finally, these policies are unfair to legal immigrants who respect our laws, often waiting years to come here. Additionally, they place a massive

¹ <https://wjla.com/news/local/men-rape-minor-md-girl>

² <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ero-baltimore-arrests-salvadoran-ms-13-member-convicted-accessory-murder-maryland#:~:text=ERO Baltimore arrests Salvadoran MS-13 member convicted,murder after the fact in Montgomery County.>

³ <https://www.congress.gov/119/meeting/house/118126/documents/HHRG-119-JU01-20250409-SD003-U3.pdf>

financial burden on taxpayers; in Maryland, the cost of supporting illegal immigration and their children is estimated at \$2.9 billion annually.⁴

I urge the Council to prioritize the safety of its law-abiding residents and the integrity of the law by rejecting Expedited Bill 35-25. We need more cooperation with federal law enforcement, not less, to ensure our county remains a safe place to live and work. Thank you.

⁴ <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/maryland2023.pdf>