

**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:** Cindy Brach

My name is Cindy Brach. 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.

Last year I lobbied legislators in Annapolis to pass the Trust Act of Maryland. Although we failed, and it is being re-introduced, I am so pleased that similar legislation is being introduced in Montgomery County. Thank you Council President Fani-González for your leadership on this legislation and thanks to the other Councilmembers who are sponsors of this bill.

Since the ICE raids in our area, I have been working with a small non-profit called Direct Support to Immigrants (DSI) that help ICE-impacted families. Too many families have had a breadwinner picked up and detained. Others fear to take their children to school or go to the grocery store. In addition to giving tangible support, DSI also tries to educate people on know their rights. But what good is knowing your rights when lawless ICE and Border Patrol agents are marauding in our neighborhoods?

As a Jew, I can't help but think of the people who turned their backs when Nazi's rounded up Jews. I have been to many demonstrations, vigils, hearing, but we have to do more than bear witness. I am asking you, as my elected officials, to do everything in your power to provide some measure of protection against the lawless assaults we are witnessing. This means not cooperating with ICE, not allowing ICE into sensitive areas, and stop the collection of unnecessary data on immigration status. It also has the added benefit that resources not devoted to assisting ICE can be directed to more productive activities.

I've seen a video taken not far from where I live where an ICE officer waved a gun at a crowd that had gathered while they struggled to detain a man in the middle of the street. The tragic death of Renee Nicole Good is unfortunately no surprise given how ICE comports itself. I can easily imagine such deaths occurring in our county. This bill, by keeping ICE at bay as much as possible, can help prevent that from happening.

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