

David_M_Friedman_ExpeditedBill35-25_Support
January 13, 2026

David M. Friedman
Silver Spring, MD 20905

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: David M. Friedman

My name is David M. Friedman. I am a resident of the Colesville/Cloverly area of Silver Spring in District 5. I am submitting this testimony in support of Expedited Bill 35-25, Promoting Community Trust – Immigrant Protections Act.

I commend and thank Council President Fani-Gonzalez for taking leadership on Expedited Bill 35-25 and thank all other councilmembers for co-sponsoring this critical legislation. I am an active member of Oseh Shalom, a Jewish Reconstructionist congregation located in Laurel, MD with at least 20% of its membership residing in Montgomery County. In Jewish tradition, our sacred texts insist that we turn our own experiences of outsiders in a foreign land, something my maternal grandparents experienced, into compassion for those experiencing the same today. In fact, care for “the stranger” is mentioned more times in the Torah than any other commandment. Thus, I am obligated to stand up for the safety of immigrants in my community and strongly support the Promoting Community Trust-Immigrant Protections Act.

My experiences and values lead me to believe that immigrant families are integral to the fabric of our community. I realize that I would not be the person I am today if my own grandparents were not able to come to this country, start a family, and become productive members of our society. Immigrant families are our coworkers, friends, classmates, and loved ones. But, I strongly believe that when County resources are used to assist ICE especially under the cruel policies of the current Federal administration, the trust that keeps our communities safe is broken and people act primarily out of fear. They stop calling for help, stop reporting abuse, and stop essential care. Children worry their parents won't come home. We cannot allow the inhumane federal policies to corrode the trust that is integral to thriving and safe communities for all in Montgomery County and this proposed Act will promote community trust. **Thus, I urge the Council to pass Expedited Bill 35-25, Promoting Community Trust, quickly and without any weakening amendments.**