

January 13, 2026

Debbie Amster

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF EXPEDITED BILL 35-25**  
**Promoting Community Trust - Immigrant Protections Act**

My name is Debbie Amster. I am a resident of Olney in District 7 and I'm submitting this testimony **in fervent support of** Expedited Bill 35-25, Promoting Community Trust – Immigrant Protections Act. I am a retired social worker, a mother, grandmother, neighbor, and advocate and am outraged by the lawless incursion of ICE in our country. I feel lucky to live in a county that is willing to stand up and protect our residents.

Just like so many immigrants in Montgomery County, my father and grandparents came to this country to escape persecution and in search of a better life. My father and grandfather washed windows to support our family and put five children through college and post grad degrees. Our story is typical. We have all been contributing members of our society, and each one of us deserves protection under the law and a fair chance at a safe and fulfilling life.

Immigrants are the fabric that makes our country great. As a senior I am more dependent on the medical system for myself and my husband. Our skilled and caring doctors are primarily immigrants, as are many of our community's health care workers. We depend on them as we depend on so many immigrants in education, science, construction, government, etc.

Our immigration system is broken and now many immigrants face unjust criminalization and deportation. There is no longer any ability to immigrate "legally" unless you are white and can buy your way in with millions of dollars. Deportations without due process is not the answer. Neither our county nor our state should be party to the unlawful actions of ICE.

I am hopeful that the Trust Act will help our county to be a place that respects our neighbors and keeps all of our residents, regardless of their background, safe. **I urge the Council to pass Expedited Bill 35 -25, Promoting Community Trust, quickly and without any weakening amendments**