

Testimony FOR Expedited Bill 35-25
Immigrant Protections (Promoting Community Trust - Immigrant Protections Act)
Montgomery County Council
January 12th, 2026

Dear President Fani-Gonzalez and members of the Council,

The Montgomery County Branch of the Democratic Socialists of America (MoCo DSA) is pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support** of the **Expedited Bill 35-25** Immigrant Protections (Promoting Community Trust - Immigrant Protections Act). This is critical legislation to ensure that all County residents feel safe, valued, and welcome in our communities while upholding civil and constitutional rights.

MoCo DSA is a political organization which supports candidates, public policy, direct action, and mutual aid throughout Montgomery County which focus on the enfranchisement and material well-being of all working class and middle class families.

MoCo DSA is proud to work alongside our coalition partners within the county to:

1. provide Know Your Rights materials to civilians, employers, and employees who may have to interact with ICE and other federal agents
2. Document immigration enforcement practices
3. Provide direct aid to families impacted by ICE abductions, detentions, and deportations

Our members are heartbroken to see ICE and other federal agents methodically destroy dozens of local families, and encourage everyone to listen very carefully to the powerful testimony that children and parents of impacted families share in support of this bill. Additionally, the violence, cruelty, illegality, and impunity that is reported daily about ICE behavior across the country should motivate everyone in our county, both elected officials and civilians, to pursue every avenue possible to resist ICE activities to protect our immigrant neighbors, and whichever groups ICE may feel empowered to target next.

MoCo DSA strongly supports efforts to codify into County law immigrant protections and to strengthen measures to limit and where feasible prohibit the use of County resources and warrant-less cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any federal agency for the purpose of detention and deportation, ultimately leading to family separation. During this time, MoCo DSA urges policies and legislation that focus on ensuring that community members feel safe, not threatened by their local government, including their local law enforcement units.

Montgomery County, where immigrants make up 30% of the County's population, knows firsthand the value of diverse communities and the vibrant social fabric that is woven when those communities come together to learn,

to work, and to care for one another. Legislation that continues to uphold this truth and honor these immigrant communities by limiting County/ICE partnerships, as allowed by federal and state law, in particular, policies that prohibit the voluntary use of any County resource, including local law enforcement, in the abduction of County residents by ICE are extremely necessary and much welcomed during this time of uncertainty and increased ICE enforcement in our Montgomery County communities and align the County with being a welcoming jurisdictions for residents, regardless of their immigration status.

Montgomery County must stand firmly on the side of families, community trust, racial justice, and constitutional rights. By codifying these protections, the Council will send a clear message that the County rejects using local resources to tear families apart and reaffirms its commitment to being a truly welcoming and safe place for all residents.

MoCo DSA urges a favorable report on Expedite Bill 35-25 Immigrant Protections (Promoting Community Trust - Immigrant Protections Act).