



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**Bill 35-25E Promoting Community Trust – Immigrant Protections Act  
SUPPORT (“The Trust Act”)**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)**. We are writing to express our strong support for **Bill 35-25E Promoting Community Trust – Immigrant Protections Act**. The Trust Act will better protect the rights and safety of the county's immigrant residents; we urge the bill's swift passage.

WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. For more than 70 years, WDC has advocated for law and policy to improve the lives of women and their families.

As you know, Montgomery County, Maryland is home to one of the largest proportions of immigrants of any county in the United States. In 2024, more than 1 in every 3 county residents were born outside of the United States. Many immigrants—citizens and noncitizens alike—are understandably fearful in the face of ongoing, unlawful actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers. National surveys found that the Trump Administration's intensified immigration enforcement over the past twelve months has had broad, negative educational impacts on students, including reduced student attendance, elevated student anxiety, and increased incidents of bullying directed toward students from immigrant families. School and district leaders reported increased fear and anxiety from students and families after the Trump Administration rescinded a policy protecting schools as “sensitive locations” from immigration enforcement.

WDC believes that our immigrant neighbors should be able to live freely, send their children to school, and access county services without fear or discrimination. The Trust Act, which codifies County Executive Elrich's 2019 Executive Order 135-19, will promote immigrant trust of local law enforcement, mitigate immigrants' fear, and enable them to more freely access county services and opportunities. Importantly, the Trust Act, which codifies and expands upon the principles of the 2019 Promoting Community Trust Executive Order (2019-03), limits the use of county resources in federal civil immigration enforcement, ensuring that staff, equipment, and facilities are not used for civil immigration actions without a valid judicial warrant or bona fide criminal law enforcement purpose.

WDC applauds the County Council and County Executive Elrich in leading efforts to protect Montgomery County immigrant residents—our family, friends and neighbors—against a cruel and lawless federal immigration regime that rips apart families and tramples on due process rights.

**We ask for your support for Bill 35-25E and strongly urge swift passage.**

Cynthia Rubenstein  
WDC President

Shelby Settles Harper  
WDC Immigration Subcommittee

Kate Stein  
WDC Advocacy Chair