

Brian Hakans
Bill 3-26- The County Values Act
Montgomery County Council
March 2, 2026
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Dear County Council,

My name is Brian Hakans, I am a resident of the Forest Glen area of Silver Spring, a father of two young children, public school teacher and community organizer with MoCo IRC (Montgomery County Immigrant Rights Collective) and the Democratic Socialists of America. I am submitting testimony in support of **Bill 3-26, the County Values Act**. Throughout the communities I belong to, I have seen how the protections in this bill would safeguard our most vulnerable neighbors and strengthen the wellbeing of the county as a whole.

The technical mechanisms of this bill provide clear, uniform guidance for county agencies when interacting with ICE. Requiring ICE to present a judicial warrant before entering non-public areas of county buildings, mandating staff training, and standardizing countywide policy will prevent federal agencies from violating residents' constitutional rights. These safeguards will reduce the terror currently being felt by at-risk residents. They would also support the county's economic stability, as undocumented community members make up an essential part of our workforce and consumer base, yet many are increasingly afraid to leave their homes for work or basic necessities.

As a parent, I have seen firsthand the chaos within MCPS around messaging to families about what schools would do if ICE were to appear. At one point, families were told both that ICE could not enter without a judicial warrant and that they could enter through gymnasiums or athletic facilities because those areas are public. This contradiction is outrageous. I teach in DCPS, where the local government has been under threat of federal takeover since the inauguration of the current administration, and yet even Office of the State Superintendent of DC has had the courage and responsibility to issue clear policy: ICE will not be admitted to any DCPS facility without a signed judicial warrant. Full stop. There is no excuse for Montgomery County to lag behind neighboring jurisdictions. All parents deserve assurance that their children will be safe in our schools, libraries, and recreation centers.

In my work with MoCo IRC and as a teacher, I have witnessed the daily impact on immigrant families. Many are terrified of leaving their homes—even for groceries or to bring their children to school. Mutual aid efforts support these families, but they are stretched thin. Volunteers like me spend hours each week coordinating grocery and diaper deliveries because law-abiding, tax-paying families fear being torn apart by ICE for simply being in

public. In my community and at the school I work at, teachers and PTAs have been forced to organize “walking bus” programs because parents are afraid to accompany their children to school. Community members show up and do this work, but we can only do so much. We need the county government to show up as well.

The County Values Act will not solve every problem, but it will provide a baseline of safety in public facilities, peace of mind for parents, and a clear message that Montgomery County values its residents more than it fears a rogue federal agency. For these reasons, I urge you to vote yes on **Bill 3-26**. Thank you for considering my testimony.