

**Testimony on Bill 3-26-Favorable
3-26—Community Values Act
March 3, 2026**

Dear Sponsor Jawando and Co-Sponsors Mink, Stewart, Evans, Sayles, and Glass,

My name is Jean Montgomery, and I am a resident of Montgomery County and community member of Olney, Maryland. I am writing in **support of 3-26 – the Community Values Act**. The law mandates that...

- No ICE/immigration enforcement be admitted into a County facility in an area not open to the general public without a judicial warrant;
- Requires signage barring ICE from all non-public areas, as well as staff training & legal support;
- Prohibits immigration enforcement activities in County-owned parking lots, garages, and lots.

I **support the Community Values Act** because while the state passed HB1222, the Maryland Values Act, in March 2025, which mandates the judicial warrants in sensitive locations, such as schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, government offices, and courthouses, the state Maryland Values Act *does not* (1) require training, signage, or legal support to staff or (2) address locations ICE frequents such as parking lots, garages, and vacant lots. The County Values Act expands sensitive locations to all county facilities.

I care personally about this issue because I have lived in Montgomery County, a multicultural, multilingual community, for over 30 years. I attended elementary, middle, and high school here, forming life-long friendships with individuals from a variety of backgrounds. I legally married my husband, a naturalized citizen, in a Montgomery County courthouse and in celebrated my marriage in the same Catholic Church I received my communion. My husband and I bought our home here and I gave birth to our three children at area hospitals. And I have enjoyed many a story-time and learning opportunity at our local county libraries and parks.

I outline and state these mild-mannered facts because all of the locations I listed are sensitive locations in which ICE has attempted or succeeded in illegally entering, searching, seizing, kidnapping, transporting, and imprisoning our neighbors. It astounds me that what the Constitution has laid out—that *all persons* have the right to expect their home to be protected and that their persons be free of search, seizure, or imprisonment without a free and fair trial and due process—is being trampled on by ICE’s reckless, lawless, aggressive, and fatal tactics. I appreciate that the state has passed the Maryland Values Act and I applaud the County in extending it further. While I recognize that ICE does not follow laws or honor our Constitution, we *must protect* each other. The County Values Act ensures that we

- Make it as difficult as possible for ICE to access and operate on County property.
- Employ the strongest possible protocols at every facility the County owns or operates,
- Fully train Montgomery staff to respond to emergencies, and
- Block off vacant parking lots ICE tries to use.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on 3-26**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jean Montgomery.