

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF COUNTY VALUES ACT – Bill 3-26 – Administration –  
Immigration Enforcement Guidance**

March 3, 2026

Chair Fani-González and members of the Montgomery County council:

My name is Jennifer Hess and I have lived in Silver Spring for almost 30 years. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I'm writing to express my strong support for Bill 3-26 Administration – Immigration Enforcement Guidance.

By strictly limiting ICE's access to operate on county property without a valid judicial warrant, Bill 3-26 would be an important complement to the Trust Act passed by this council last month. It would mandate that all County facilities require a judicial warrant to allow ICE entry to any areas not open to the general public, post clear signage barring ICE from those areas, and provide staff training. It also would prohibit any immigration enforcement activities in County parking lots, garages, and vacant lots and require County staff to report such activities. One would think that the 4th Amendment to the Constitution made clear that non-public areas cannot be entered by law enforcement without a judicial warrant, but the Trump administration seems to need that basic right spelled out more clearly.

Indeed, federal immigration agents have been operating all over the country as if our laws did not apply to them. Masked unidentified agents terrorize our communities with no regard for basic American protections such as due process, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures.

At this point, it has been well established that ICE is not detaining “the worst of the worst.” Instead, ICE is making sweeping arrests based on skin color, language spoken, place of employment, and even showing up as legally required for one's immigration hearings. Indeed, of the more than 3,300 people picked up by ICE in our state last year, the vast majority had no criminal convictions; more than half had never been charged. Once detained, our neighbors have little recourse or remedy. This is not a strategy to protect public safety. This is ethnic cleansing.

Maryland should not be a party to such ill-treatment of our most vulnerable community members. Bill 3-26 would be an important step towards protecting our immigrant population. Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Hess