

## Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7212  
**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRUST ACT AND PROHIBITED STATE CONTRACTS.  
**Vote Date:** 4/8/2025  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute  
**PH Date:** 3/19/2025  
**File No.:** 757

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Judiciary Committee

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## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To strengthen the intent of the Trust Act passed by the Connecticut legislature in 2013, which prohibits state and local law enforcement officials from detaining a person unless public safety risk factors exist, while also requiring them to notify U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) once a decision has been made to detain or release said person(s). The language seeks to limit the type of information an agency can disclose to an ICE agent under a civil immigration detainer unless it is accompanied by a judicial warrant, or such individual has been convicted of an A or B felony.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:**

The substitute language makes various additions to the first section of the bill regarding data reporting conducted by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), civil arrests, and violations by a municipality. It also adds a new second section regarding state contracting prohibitions.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**William Tong, Attorney General:** More than 16 percent of the state's residents and nearly 20 percent of our workforce are immigrants, contributing to our thriving and diverse economy. In this time of uncertainty and fear we need to strengthen the Trust Act to increase protections for our residents and reaffirm our policy to value, honor, and respect our immigrants and refugees. As a legislator, I worked with Republicans and Democrats to pass and strengthen the Trust Act. Together we wrote and passed a law that focuses on public safety, ensuring that people trust and have faith with law enforcement and first responders and that we focus on arresting, prosecuting, incarcerating when appropriate. Public agencies face uncertainty when providing federal immigration authorities with sensitive information. We have received increased questions regarding information sharing with federal immigration authorities. The amendments in this bill provide answers to those questions and it brings Connecticut in line with other states that recognize and value the contributions of immigrants to their communities. All restrictions in the Trust Act reflects the constitutional principle of state sovereignty and will continue to be consistent with federal law or alter key public safety protections.

**Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director, division of Public Defender Services, State of Connecticut:** The bill prohibits the disclosure of certain personal identifiable information, and our office does not disclose such information because of the attorney-client relationship. The bill prohibits the use of interpretation service provide by a federal immigration authority and this office supports this because the use of such would raise a substantial risk the content of such discussions will be disclosed and possibly used against them. Many public defender clients require the assistance of interpreters, and we provide interpreters throughout a client's representation, regardless of whether they are incarcerated or not. We request funding for 13 interpreters for each of the 13 judicial districts; interpreters are needed to assist in providing the right to counsel as guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Magaly Cajigas, State Director, Hispanic Federation:** It this bill is not passed, Connecticut risks perpetuating fear among communities. Without additional protections this will happen:

- Immigrants may continue to avoid reporting crimes or cooperating with law enforcement, making our communities less safe.
- Families could be torn apart due to unnecessary detention and deportations facilitated by state agencies sharing information with ICE.
- Workers, students, and parents may feel unsafe accessing essential services, such as healthcare, education, and legal resources, fearing that any interaction with the government could put them at risk.
- Local economies and businesses could suffer as immigrant families, who are an integral part of our workforce, live in uncertainty.

This bill is not about protecting immigrants but ensuring Connecticut remains a place where fairness, dignity, and public trust are upheld.

### **Werner Oyanadel, Policy Director, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity &**

**Opportunity:** As a non-partisan legislative agency, we are committed to eliminating disparities and our analysis of proposed legislation is framed through the lens of equity and inclusion. The Trust Act, first enacted in 2013 and expanded in 2019, established limitations on local law enforcement cooperation and federal authorities. Gaps remain in the law that expose Connecticut residents to detention, and potential deportation without appropriate due process protection. This bill will strengthen the law by expanding protections to include all public agencies, prohibit arrests or detentions based on ICE detainers, restrict date-sharing, enhance transparency, and ensure due process. Clear constitutional safeguards are essential to a just and equitable society.

**Justin Elicker, Mayor, New Haven:** After just months of becoming Mayor in 2020, I signed a welcoming city Executive Order to have all our residents feel safe and comfortable accessing City resources and interacting with City employees. All our residents need to feel comfortable accessing all our public services for our entire city to be healthier and safer. Strengthening the Trust act can ensure that the entire state is healthier, safer, and more effective in our services. There is training and accountability that comes and we need to expand our training to public agencies and officer to ensure proper compliance. We have trained our city employees and advocate for some form of accountability for violations of the Trust Act. We can abide by federal law without taking on federal immigration enforcement functions.

**Megan Fountain, Community Organizing Director, She Leads Justice:** The Trust Act was created in response to a tragedy of justice. In 2012, Jose Maria Islas was arrested and nearly deported for a crime he did not commit. Because of an attempt to steal an expensive bike and a description of a Hispanic man with a gun, the police arrested the first Hispanic man they saw and jailed him on a felony charge. There was no evidence so the judge said he could pay a low bond and go home but if we paid the bond, they would turn him over to ICE and ICE would take him to an out-of-state immigration detention facility and he would never be able to return to Connecticut courts and prove his innocence. He remained in jail for 4 months before the judge ruled him innocent and ordered his release. He never came out because he was turned over to ICE. After months, Jose was finally released but the harm had been done and he was traumatized by the abuse he suffered in detention. That is why

the Trust Act was created but it now needs to be amended to ensure that no other family suffers as Jose's did.

**Benjamin Marshall Haldeman, Immigration Defense Attorney, New Haven Legal Assistance Association (NHLAA):**

My support for the bill and its proposed amendments are tied to my work at NHLAA. My work brings me regularly into contact with all aspects of the immigration system. I see all aspects and I also see the imperfections of the current Trust Act both in implementation and design. It covers a broad swath of law enforcement professionals; it fails to bind other state and local officials or limit information-sharing. It also fails to protect our courthouses from ICE interference. The most critical is in education and enforcement. I have listened to police officers claim to hold noncitizens for ICE and that does not exist under Connecticut law. Neither ICE detainers nor administrative warrants are supported by probable cause. They are internal agency documents. The Act, as now written, provides a right without a remedy and without this remedy we will continue see to violations of the Act. Unless we amend this Act to include a robust enforcement mechanism and close loopholes that allow state and local officials to provide direct assistance to ICE, we will fail to accomplish our priorities.

**Ed Hawthorne, President Connecticut AFL-CIO:** Though passed in 2019, the Trust Act has reduced fear, but federal immigration efforts have now escalated, and families fear deportation and separation. We need to revisit this law to ensure we maintain the trust and respect between Connecticut's law enforcement and immigrant communities. We urge strengthening the Trust Act by including the following:

- Prohibit Connecticut law enforcement agencies from providing other forms of assistance, such as sharing surveillance footage or setting up traffic perimeters, to immigration authorities.
- Ensure that people receive information about their right not to disclose their immigration status in a language they can understand.
- Prevent people who have been previously convicted of a felony from being held without a warrant.
- Prohibit the Connecticut National Guard from assisting with federal immigration enforcement while under state command and prohibit other states' militias from operating in Connecticut without the Governor's approval.
- Prohibit ICE arrests at courthouses, including while people travel to and from the courthouse, and empower judges to enforce this rule.
- Prohibit the state from funding, building, or operating immigration detention facilities
- Establish a public hotline for reporting violations of the Trust Act, managed by the Attorney General and a new oversight committee, and provide individuals with a private right of action to sue for violations of the Trust Act.

This will send a clear and strong message that Connecticut prioritizes the safety and rights of all its residents regardless of immigration status.

**David Vita, Member, Trust Act Now Coalition:** ICE is abusing its power across the country by stating the raids are for terrorists and violent criminals. The facts on the ground are much different. Here are just a few examples:

- A woman in her 50s who has lived in the country more than 30 years and is married to a U.S. citizen.
- A woman in her 30s with proof of valid permanent legal residency, whose father and siblings are U.S. citizens, and who first came to the U.S. as a teen.
- A European woman in her 30s engaged to a U.S. citizen who overstayed her visa during COVID when she was 21.

- A woman engaged to a U.S. legal permanent resident, with whom she has lived for nine years.

None of these women has a criminal record yet all have ongoing legal immigration process because they were picked up by ICE. We need to do the right thing to protect the humanity of all our residents, resist federal overreach, protect civil rights, due process, and protect the public. Pass this bill based on the recommendations submitted by the Connecticut Immigrant Support Network, ACLU, and the Yale WIRAC Law Clinic.

**Henry Garcie, Law Student Intern, Worker, and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic at Yale Law School:**

On behalf of the Yale WIRAC, we support the bill and offer amendments to strengthen Connecticut's Trust Act. The bill includes meaningful improvements but does not meet the moment even though it has protections it does not address current threats. Other states have added protections that included an enforcement mechanism to sue ICE if it violates restrictions on courthouse arrests. We need to establish a public hotline for reporting violations of the Act. We cite the recent case in Connecticut of *Amancio v. DePerry* where Mr. Amancio was illegally arrested while working on a residential home; ICE came and detained him. A Connecticut Superior Court held that there was no private right of action under Connecticut's Trust Act and could not hold the officer and the city of Old Saybrook accountable in court. Adding a private right of action would enable residents harmed by its violation to seek redress in court. The protections must be extended to courthouses by prohibiting ICE from disrupting proceedings and asking people for their immigration status or sharing that information. The Trust Act should ensure that no state armed forces, including Connecticut's National Guard will be used for immigration enforcement and other states will not be deployed in the state without the Governor's approval. This bill is an important step forward but not enough. Stand with the immigrant communities and prohibit all forms of law enforcement cooperation with ICE.

**Amanda Klay, Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow, New Haven Legal Assistance**

**Association:** I work with individuals seeking relief from deportation based on humanitarian grounds. My clients are our neighbors that have survived unthinkable circumstances and acts of violence in their countries of origin who happen to be undocumented. The bill is a step forward to protecting our immigrant families but is missing an enforcement mechanism. I support the following amendments:

- Prohibiting ICE arrests at courthouses, including while people travel to and leave the courthouse
- Prohibiting law enforcement agencies from providing other forms of assistance to immigration authorities, such as sharing surveillance footage or setting up traffic perimeters
- Establishing a public hotline for reporting violations of the Act, managed by the Attorney General and a new oversight committee and granting individuals the right to sue for Trust Act violations.

**Janet Bauer, Co-Chair, Hartford Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs:**

Immigrants come to this country with great hope and the belief of what America holds for them. They are our past and future and are disproportionately represented in our workforce. They are less likely to commit crimes and pay billions in taxes; despite paying over \$400 million in 2022 they receive limited tax benefits. They are not eligible for Social Security retirement benefits or health insurance through Medicare even though they contribute to these programs. Immigrants often face life-changing consequences when exercising their rights and are arrested and put in deportation proceedings even after there is no probable cause. Our purpose is to strengthen the constitutionally guaranteed rights of immigrants and

protect the due process now that this administration has invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798. Arriving without a visa or at unauthorized points of entry was not criminalized until 1920. Many of our immigrant ancestors came to America in just that way.

**Chris Vials, President UConn American Association of University Professors (AAUP):**

As president of the AAUP union representing over 2000 faculty, researcher, coaches, and trainers, we are an organization devoted to providing legal and financial support for immigrants in Eastern Connecticut. Many of our faculty are international and are frightened at the randomness of ICE's apprehensions of even green card holders; this bill and its amendments would help to provide a greater sense of security on our campus. Through my work with the Neighbor Fund, I am aware that ICE picks up at state courthouses. This is a particularly damning practice because it undermines the trust and faith in our legal system. Strengthen the Trust Act and make our state a beacon for tolerance and the rule of law.

**Michelle Ross, State Advocacy Committee, American Immigration Lawyers**

**Association:** As a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization comprised of immigration attorneys and law professors, we advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy. This bill is a pivotal step forward to protecting immigrant communities by mandating that local law enforcement forward federal immigration requests to higher authorities and it also restricts the disclosure of sensitive personal data. This strengthens the trust between immigrants and local institutions, allowing residents access to service without fear of undue federal intrusion. I share in my testimony the story of our client who reached a settlement in the first lawsuit brought under the Connecticut Trust Act in 2022.

**Ann Reed, Vice President, Advocacy and Public Issues, The League of Women Voters:**

The bill helps protect Connecticut's immigrant communities, but it does not fully address what the community members are facing. More needs to be done to keep officials and resources out of federal immigration enforcement, prohibit law enforcement agencies from sharing custody release, limiting unnecessary data collection and sharing and prohibiting the use of federal immigration officers as interpreters. This is a vital tool that will protect Connecticut against federal overreach, but it needs to be made stronger with the Coalition's proposed amendments as included in my testimony. When local police are perceived as agents for ICE, immigrants will hesitate to cooperate with police. Enacting these amendments reaffirms Connecticut's commitment to dignity and justice for all.

**Connecticut Working Families Power:** Working Families Power is a member of the Connecticut for All and Husky for Immigrants coalition. Working Families Power stands with countless partner organizations, the CT TRUST ACT Now coalition, immigrant members and the entire immigrant community in support of the bill and its modification and opportunities to strengthen the bill as included in our testimony. Policies that protect immigrant communities keep families together, promote safety for all, and ensure our local tax dollars are used to promote safety.

Sarah Ganong, State Director  
Eimy Martinez, Organizing Director  
Alfredo Rosete, Professor of Economics  
Jackie Cabrera, Organizer  
Alex Johnson, Member  
Danica Liu, Member

**Hartford Deportation Defense:** Twenty-two people submitted testimony under the Hartford Deportation Defense, which came together as group of community volunteers to halt the

deportation of a Hartford-based mother Wayzaro Walton who, because of a minor infraction, was picked up at an immigration check and detained for many months. Upon her release, there was a two-year organizing campaign by hundreds of residents. As a state we have a responsibility to protect all our residents regardless of citizenship. As Trump increases the assaults against immigrants, we need to take bold steps to protect them in Connecticut. Support the bill along with the Amendments Submitted by the Connecticut Immigrant Support Network, ACLU, and the Yale WIRAC Law Clinic.

Rachel Bursen	Molly Charles	Leticia Cotto	Susan Crawford
Melissa Cyr	Hillary Desideraggio	Donna Grossman	Stefan Keller
Mary Laporte	Jason Lavoie	Edna Levy	Grisela Luna
Polly Moran	Bianca Noronas	Beverly Peterson	Renae Reese
Laura Rozza	Elizabeth Secord	Hannah Simms	Mary Synkewecz
Norris Taylor	Maureen Welch		

**Students for a Dream:** As Connecticut students who are part of Students for a Dream, a statewide organization, we support the bill as an important step in protecting our immigrant community. The bill does not fully address all the challenges faced by members of our immigrant community, which is why we support the proposed amendments offered by the TRUST Act Now Coalition, comprised of CT Students for a Dream, Connecticut Immigrant Support Network, ACLU, WIRAC Clinic and other community organizations.

Richard Boritz	Nathalia Casco	Naydelin Chica	Yenimar Cortes
Josey Cruz	Esteban Garcia	Mayte Grunmendi	Carlos Lainez
Sara Leon	Anthony Lluilema	Marcelo Miraya	Melany Rashel
Amy Ramon	Cinthy Vivan	Melany Yunga	Naydelin Chica

**Rabbi Ari Rosenberg, Executive Director, Association of Religious Communities,**

**(ARC):** ARC has been supporting immigrants since it was established 50 years ago. Most of our food pantry recipients are immigrants and a handful of our homeless and domestic violence clients. We welcome the stranger and take to heart the universal commandment to "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself." We support the following:

- Keeping Connecticut officials and resources out of federal immigration enforcement by requiring officers to forward requests for cooperation to agency heads; prohibiting law enforcement agencies from sharing custody release information unless already publicly available; and banning law enforcement officers from performing federal immigration functions.
- Limiting unnecessary data collection and data sharing by barring law enforcement and public agencies from collecting or sharing immigration status information.
- Protecting the civil rights of all people in Connecticut, including those in the criminal legal system, by prohibiting the use of federal immigration officers as interpreters.

We must not allow this administration's destructive and regressive agendas undermine our state's legacy of progress and inclusivity.

**Rajeev Pahuja, Fashion and Sales Consultant:** The Connecticut Trust Act should be strengthened by prohibiting state and local law enforcement from serving Federal Immigration and Custom enforcement detainers without a valid federal warrant. The Trust Act needs to focus on state and local priorities, not what the agenda is for the federal government. Multiple courts have ruled against the federal government and forced states to server deportation quotas. The bill needs to have the public interest in mind and take steps to protect immigrant communities.

**David Weinreb, Teacher, New Haven Public Schools:** As an educator working with immigrant students in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Spanish-speaking newcomers (many of whom are undocumented) are brilliant young people with incredible life experiences and families. They need to know that Connecticut is prepared to care and protect them. This legislation is critical to continue the policies that make all residents regardless of immigration status access police services and public schools without fear of being turned over to ICE for deportation. This bill helps.

**Monica van Beursekom, Member Unitarian Universalist Society East, Manchester:** My congregation is part of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance that works to make systemic changes toward justice in our region and state. The bill helps protect the immigrant communities in Connecticut but needs the proposed amendments as offered by the TRUST Act Now Coalition. As a Unitarian Universalist, I believe everyone is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish and live with dignity, but the federal government is failing in this regard by denying immigrant's due process. They are revoking certain types of visas and invoking laws with dubious validity like the Alien Enemies Act. We need to counter the federal anti-immigrant policies with conviction and purpose and the proposed amendments offered by the Trust Act Coalition is a step in the right direction.

**City of New Haven, Board of Alders:** We five represent the different Wards in the Fair Haven neighborhood and are proud to support the bill. Our neighborhood has long been a haven and home for immigrant communities. The time to act is now during this time of uncertainty and fear. We have an opportunity to take proactive measures to ensure Connecticut has more tools to effectively protect neighbors across our state.

**Dr. Carina Bandhauer, Sociologist, Western Connecticut State University:** As a mother, Connecticut resident and a sociologist specializing in immigration, I work hard to create a meaningful educational experience for young people in Connecticut. My students teach me about humanity, and they give me hope for the future. I want our state to be safe and secure and one where mothers can trust schools, hospitals, and state and municipal offices. In 2024, the Danbury Public Schools had children from 63 different countries. The federal government not only threatens undocumented people but also legal permanent residents and naturalized citizens. We need to foster trust between the immigrant community and our state and local municipalities and the improvements to the Trust Act will send a strong message that Connecticut will protect its residents regardless of immigration status.

**Christina Barmon, Professor, Central Connecticut State University:** As a professor of sociology and gerontology, I support the bill with the proposed amendments offered by the TRUST Act Now Coalition. The bill needs to be stronger and protect Connecticut residents against federal overreach. We should not use people for their labor, dispose of them, terrorize them, and wash our hands of all responsibility for their well-being.

**Cesar Abadia-Barrero, Professor, University of Connecticut:** As a teacher of higher education, an immigrant, and a member of the AAUP I have experienced the impact of anti-immigrant policies. Our students and our staff are afraid of being detained and deported. We need to make sure children, young adults, teachers, families, and support staff feel safe as we offer them the best education and support. Communities living in fear are not welcoming communities and cannot perform at their best. Included in my testimony are recommendations for amendments to strengthen the Trust Act.



**Liz Gustafson, MSW, State Director, Reproductive Equity Now:**

**Gretchen Raffa, MSW, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England:** We want a future where every person can decide where and when to grow their families without facing logistical, financial, legal, or political barriers or interference. The reality is our immigration systems are built on decades of racism, xenophobia, and white supremacy leading to barriers faced by millions of people. Currently, we are witnessing targeted threats from the federal administration as they detain, deport, and enforce harmful immigration policies. This bill would strengthen Connecticut's Trust Act to protect the people, but we would propose the following additional language:

- Prohibiting law enforcement agencies from providing other forms of assistance, such as sharing surveillance footage or setting up traffic perimeters, to immigration authorities.
- Preventing people who have been previously convicted of a felony from being held without a warrant. It ensures that people receive information about their right not to disclose their immigration status in a language they can understand.
- Prohibiting the Connecticut National Guard from assisting with federal immigration enforcement while under state command. It also bans other states' militias from operating in Connecticut without the Governor's approval.
- Prohibiting ICE arrests at courthouses, including while people travel to and leave the courthouse. It also empowers judges to enforce this rule.
- Establishing a public hotline for reporting violations of the Act, managed by the Attorney General and a new oversight committee. It also grants individuals the right to sue for violations of the Act.

Send a strong message that Connecticut will protect the safety and humanity of all its residents regardless of immigration status.

**Nate Fox, Staff Attorney, The Center for Children's Advocacy:** The center provides holistic legal representation for low-income children and youth in Connecticut's Communities. I provide direct legal services to immigrant children and youth throughout the state and am part of a national coalition working with and advocating on behalf of abused and neglected immigrant children and youth. We are alarmed by the growing reports of immigrant families withholding their children from school and missing important medical appointments. The impacts from this cannot be overstated. There are high school seniors at risk of not graduating due to missing high school. I have firsthand knowledge of this through my work. Immigrant families hesitate to engage in civic life due to local police, school security, and public employees perceived as aiding mass immigration enforcement and deportation. The improvements to the TRUST Act and the coalitions proposed amendments will send a strong message that Connecticut will protect all its residents regardless of their immigration status.

**Seth Freeman, President, Congress of Connecticut community Colleges:** Connecticut's colleges are built on the principle of access and provide higher education to students from all backgrounds. Many students are undocumented or come from mixed-status families. Our students fear local law enforcement may collaborate with ICE and hesitate to seek help, report crimes, or even pursue their education fully. This erodes their learning experience and the trust that must exist between our institutions and the communities we serve.

I urge adopting the proposed amendments:

- Prohibiting law enforcement from assisting with ICE operations in any capacity
- Preventing individuals with past felony convictions from being detained without a warrant

- Barring ICE arrests at courthouses
- Establishing a public hotline to report violations
- Providing legal recourse to those harmed by unlawful immigration enforcement actions

This is not about immigrant rights but ensuring Connecticut remains a place where all people can live with dignity and contribute to our shared prosperity.

**Leslie Blatteau, President, New Haven Federation of Teachers:** The bill takes an important step in protecting Connecticut's immigrant communities but does not fully address the challenges. I support the following proposed amendments by the TRUST Act Now Coalition.

- Prohibiting law enforcement agencies from providing other forms of assistance, such as sharing surveillance footage or setting up traffic perimeters, to immigration authorities.
- Preventing people who have been previously convicted of a felony from being held without a warrant. It ensures that people receive information about their right not to disclose their immigration status in a language they can understand.
- Prohibiting the Connecticut National Guard from assisting with federal immigration enforcement while under state command. It also bans other states' militias from operating in Connecticut without the Governor's approval.
- Prohibiting ICE arrests at courthouses, including while people travel to and leave the courthouse. It also empowers judges to enforce this rule.
- Establishing a public hotline for reporting violations of the Act, managed by the Attorney General and a new oversight committee. It also grants individuals the right to sue for violations of the Act.

In New Haven we recognize how central trust is to everyone given the constitutional crisis unfolding before our eyes.

**Rose Reyes, CT AFT CTFA Neighborhood NAACP:** I support the proposed amendments as offered by the TRUST Act Now Coalition and understand this is about elevating our autonomy to serve our communities. I find it incomprehensible that the federal government stands opposed to the historical reality of how we thrive. There are at least 110,000 undocumented individuals in Connecticut that want to make it their home and we need to provide protection and this bill reinforce the tenets of trust needed.

**Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut:** The ACLU-CT fights to protect equality and justice for all Connecticut residents including undocumented people. This administrations deportation machine is tearing families and communities apart. This bill strengthens the existing Trust Act by closing loopholes and ensures local and state law enforcement are not feeding the deportation machine. We urge the recommendations from the TRUST Act Now coalition and do not allow this administration to undermine our state's legacy of inclusivity.

**Travis Woodward, President CSEA SEIU Local 2001:** This bill is an important step in protecting our immigrant communities, but it does not really address the challenges our immigrant members are facing. We support the proposed amendments offered by the TRUST Act Now Coalition that is composed of the Connecticut Immigrant Support Network, ACLU, the Yale WIRAC Clinic, and other community organizations. We must not allow this administration's destructive and regressive agendas undermine our state's legacy of inclusivity and progress.

**Esther Alcantara, Member Community Voices, Hispanic Health Council:** I moved from Peru 7 years ago and live with my husband and son. As an immigrant, the Trust Act is important because it is a basic law that preserves people's basic rights and protects immigrants' information. Connecticut needs a stronger Trust Act because we are a country that says the people have power and this law reaffirms it. The Trust Act restores immigrants' confidence and helps immigrants who are good and follow the rules. These people just want to work and protect their children, but the new admiration has them terrified and hiding in fear. Support the recommendations presented by the Connecticut Immigrant Support Network, ACLU, and Yale WIRAC Law Clinic.

**Peter Fousek, Secretary-Treasurer, Connecticut Tenant Union:** We are faced with a moment in our national history and such an urgent choice. What kind of society do we want to live in and will we concede to an unjust federal intervention in which ICE agents can compel cooperation from our agencies and law enforcement as a weapon against our immigrant neighbors. Or will we take a stand and act decisively for the sake of basic moral decency. Failure to pass this bill with the amendments as recommended by the Connecticut Immigrant Support Network, ACLU and the Yale WIRAC Law Clinic will signal to our immigrant neighbors the Connecticut law enforcement is equivalent to ICE and they are not to be trusted. It is essential that we all stand firm in our values as a state and a nation that welcomes immigrants.

**Keith Barela, CEO, Hispanic Health Council:** As the largest Latino service provider of Connecticut whose mission is to promote equity and address health disparity for Hispanics, Latino and other vulnerable communities through research, advocacy, and culturally relevant service with a wide range of clientele of which many are undocumented, this bill is a vital tool to protect them. Our clients are scared they will be detained by ICE and their children will be detained at school. Children's education is being affected because of deportation. Children deserve an education regardless of their immigration status. Strengthening the Trust Act is what Connecticut can do to protect its immigrant residents.

**Connecticut Voices for Children:** As a research and advocacy organization that works to ensure that Connecticut is a thriving equitable state where all children can achieve their full potential, this bill is essential. Studies show that immigration enforcement threatens children's mental health, causes anxious behavior, separation anxiety, lowers self-regulation, and causes toxic stress increasing their risk of PTSD. This is a necessary and evidenced passed policy that reinforces our commitment to public safety, economic stability, and the well-being of all its residents.

**David Reynolds, Deacon, Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference:** The Catholic Church has long recognized the right of nations to control their borders and immigration. Immigrants, even "illegal immigrants", must be treated with dignity and not disdain or abuse. The failure of our leaders on the federal level to fix a broken immigration system has created a humanitarian crisis; one that threatens the lives of those who seek a better life for them and their families in our nation. Polling shows that most support the identification and deportation of criminals and potential terrorists, but most immigrants are not in this category. Federal authorities have led many immigrants to believe they will be caught up in this new enforcement effort. To treat those who have lived here for many years in a manner of disrespect for their human dignity and contributions to our society. This legislation is an attempt to address the immigration failures of the past and chart a new path for the future.

The following testified on behalf of **CONNECT, Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut**, in support of the bill:

**Rabbi James Prosnit, Congregation B'nai Israel, Bridgeport**  
**Father James Manship, St. Rose of Lima, Archdiocese of Hartford**  
**Beth Lazar, Member Congregation B'nai Israel, Bridgeport**  
**Mike Jacobson, Member Congregational B'nai Israel, Bridgeport**  
**Jeffery Schwartz, B'nai Israel, Fairfield**  
**Wendy Bloch, Congregation B'nai Israel, Fairfield**  
**Rev. Dr. Phillippe E. C. Andal, Community Baptist Church, New Haven**

The following submitted testimony on behalf of the Communist Party:

**Lisa Bergman**  
**Georgina Fuentes**  
**Jahmal Henderson**  
**Joelle Fishman**

The following submitted testimony in support of the bill on behalf of their **First Church of Christ**:

**Mario Chiappetti, First Church of Christ, Simsbury**  
**Robert Dakers, First Church of Christ, Glastonbury**  
**Donna Kidwell, First Church of Christ, Glastonbury**  
**Reverend Allyson Glass, First Church of Christ, Glastonbury**  
**Stanley G. de Mello, First Church of Christ, Glastonbury**  
**Jessica Hickey, First Church of Christ, Simsbury**  
**Robert Dakers, First Church of Christ, Glastonbury**  
**David Liscinsky, First Church of Christ, Glastonbury**  
**Terry Schmitt, First Church of Christ, West Hartford**  
**Kathy Salk, First Church of Christ, Glastonbury**  
**Lee Roberts, First Church of Christ, West Hartford**

The following submitted testimony in support of the bill as a member of **St. Patrick/St Anthony, Catholic Church, Hartford**:

**Fr. Michael Johnson, Executive Director of the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry**  
**Susan Lennon, Hartford**  
**Robert Merritt, Hartford**  
**Louise Moran, Hartford**  
**John Paul Wentlad, Glastonbury**  
**Patricia Spring, Hartford**

The following submitted testimony on behalf of their houses of worship:

**Reverend Mark Olsen, Emanuel Lutheran Church**  
**Pastor Emily Scott, First Presbyterian Church, New Haven**  
**Stanley Maticka, Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hartford**  
**Gina Cassetta, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Danbury**  
**Reverend Tony Lorenzen, Unitarian Universalist Church, Meriden**  
**Reverend Erick Olsen, Church of Christ, Congregational, a United Church of Christ, Norfolk**  
**Reverend Vicki Flippin, United Methodist Church, Milford**  
**Rt. Reverend Dr. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Church, West Hartford**

**Other Testimony:** Due to the quantity of testimony received for this bill, it is not possible to give a summary of each individual submission. Of the remaining testimonies in support, the following ideas were expressed:

**350** solely expressed support of the bill.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Rob Sampson, Senator, Connecticut:** The bill expands Connecticut's already reckless sanctuary policies. The Trust Act of 2013, and expanded in 2019, turned our state into a haven for illegal immigrants including those with gang affiliations, felony convictions, and even terror connections. This bill is a violation of federal law and jeopardizes public safety. In recent years, multiple illegal immigrants have committed violent crimes while protected under Connecticut's sanctuary laws. The real solution is simple. Secure our borders, eliminate illegal immigration, and expand lawful immigration where all immigrants can be treated as full equal members of society.

**Dana Barrow, First Selectmen, Scotland:** This bill is putting the state at risk by hindering ICE carrying out Federal Law Enforcement Activities putting state employees at risk by harboring illegal aliens. As the first Selectman of a town, the overflow of illegals has overwhelmed our school systems, state budget, housing availability, and put lifelong residents at safety risks. I believe if a state employee holds back information from ICE they could be charged with obstruction of justice. This is not in the best interest of law-abiding Connecticut residents.

**Mary Ann Turner, Enfield:** This bill is a blatant disregard for the rule of law and public safety. The bill provides a safe haven for criminals, undermines public safety, creates a two-tiered justice system, disrespects the rule of law and burdens Connecticut taxpayers. Connecticut citizens and legal residents do not get special protections so why should illegal immigrants. Focus on policies that support the law, uphold our legal system, and protect Connecticut residents.

**L. Rossi:** The Trust Act is incompatible with federal immigration laws, particularly 8 USC sec. 1324. Federal law supersedes state law, and the act gives those a false sense of security. Defending these federal criminal cases puts an undue monetary burden on taxpayers because of having to defend these federal criminals.

**Other Testimony:** Due to the quantity of testimony received for this bill it is not possible to give a summary of each individual submission. Of the remaining testimonies in opposition, the following ideas were expressed:

**12** people submitted testimony that anyone in this country illegally should be deported.

**4** people submitted testimony that this bill goes against the Constitution.

**9** people submitted testimony that this bill undermines the police.

**Reported by:** Pamela Bianca

**Date:** April 25, 2025