

I am writing in favor of the legislation put forth titled Public Institutions of Higher Education – Contracts – Prohibition. I write to you as a recent alumnus of the University of Maryland College Park, a public university, as well as a graduate of Montgomery County Public Schools. I believe it is imperative that we do not have connections between public institutions and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) due to the immoral actions of the latter. I understand that the contracts with ICE have little connection to the reprehensible actions that are occurring at the border and elsewhere in the country; however, supporting ICE in any way helps excuse their behavior, which is tearing families apart. ICE has become extremely militant and violent against undocumented immigrants and we cannot continue to turn a blind eye to their actions by allowing them to partner with our public institutions. Our immigration system desperately needs to transform into a process that is less hostile to people who want to become American citizens. As a lifelong American citizen, I fear ICE and its actions. Public institutions must sever the ties with this agency even if it means losing research funding.