

Dear Representatives of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am a Maryland resident and I strongly urge representatives in the Maryland General Assembly to vote YES on HB0047 to ensure that public institutions of higher education cannot enter or renew contracts with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE has facilitated and is complicit with various human rights violations and has no place creating contracts or agreements with public institutions that serve students and other populations who may have varying immigration statuses. Not only do these sorts of contracts with violent law enforcement agencies such as ICE diminish the trust between students and their university, they also may cause undue stress on undocumented students and university employees.

As a recent alum of University of Maryland College Park, I have seen firsthand how the university's ties with ICE has caused great fear among Latinx students. The priority of universities - and the legislature by proxy - should be the safety and wellbeing of students and ICE has proven itself time and again to be a rogue agency willing to disregard any and all legal barriers to detain and deport undocumented people. The longer ICE is normalized in all aspects of society, the less accountability they have in their day-to-day operations. Due to their racial profiling and lack of accountability, ICE is a danger to all students - undocumented or not - so it's imperative that MD institutions all ties are cut with the agency.

Sincerely,
Zach Styles
MD Legislative District 15