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**Testimony to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
HB-1222: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)
Position: Favorable with Amendment**

March 25, 2025

The Honorable William Smith, Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, Maryland: Room #2, East Miller Senate Office Building,
Annapolis, Maryland, 21401
cc: Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 27, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jordy Diaz, and I am an Organizer with Young People for Progress (YPP), a youth-led civic and social justice organization based in Montgomery County. As the son of Honduran immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), I have seen firsthand how immigration policies can affect families like mine. Our membership includes high school students and young adults, many of whom are directly impacted by immigration policies—either as undocumented individuals or as family members of those at risk. We strongly support HB 1222, the Maryland Values Act, and urge this committee to issue a favorable report with amendments that fully eliminate 287(g) agreements in Maryland.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be complicit in tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting local resources toward a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland must prioritize true public safety—ensuring that law enforcement serves and protects all residents, regardless of immigration status.

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. According to a 2023 report from the American Immigration Council, law enforcement agencies participating in 287(g) disproportionately target Black and Latino immigrants for arrest and detention, often without probable cause.¹ Right here in Maryland, Frederick County's 287(g) agreement has led to multiple lawsuits documenting racial profiling and unconstitutional detentions.² These practices erode trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, making people less likely to engage in their communities, seek help, or cooperate with public officials—ultimately making all communities less safe.

The urgency of HB 1222 is reinforced by the current federal immigration landscape. A January 2025 White House executive order drastically expanded immigration enforcement efforts, leading to the highest number of ICE arrests in a single month since 2017.³ The

¹National Immigration Law Center, "Analysis of Trump Day 1 Executive Orders: Unconstitutional, Illegal, and Cruel," January 21, 2025,

<https://www.nilc.org/articles/analysis-of-trump-day-1-executive-orders-unconstitutional-illegal-and-cruel/>.

²American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland, "Federal Complaint to End Frederick County 287(g) Agreement," September 2021, <https://www.aclu-md.org/en/cases/federal-complaint-end-frederick-county-287g-agreement>.

³The Guardian, "US arrests more immigrants in February 2025 than any month in last seven years," March 13, 2025,

administration's aggressive approach to mass deportations directly threatens Maryland's immigrant families, increasing fear and instability in our communities.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, alongside CASA, we support a clean bill that removes the Judiciary Committee's amendments requiring notification and transfer to ICE. Local jurisdictions already have the discretion to engage with ICE if they choose; ending 287(g) agreements does not remove that authority. However, maintaining these agreements would continue to instill fear and distrust between law enforcement and immigrant communities—preventing people from accessing essential services, reporting crimes, and fully participating in civic life.

For these reasons, Young People for Progress urges the committee to issue a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Sincerely,
Jordy Diaz
Organizer, Young People for Progress

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/13/us-immigration-arrests-february-2025>.

