

**Testimony on HB 1222 - Favorable with Amendments**  
HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 27, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

I am offering a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**.

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 in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

I am the daughter of an immigrant parent. I know firsthand about the grit and determination it takes to come to this country to forge a better future for your family and the people around you. I am a member of the Germantown-Homewood Community, a proud Annapolitan, and Marylander. To call this place home, it's of the utmost importance to me that we are using taxpayer funds to support and uplift our neighbors and communities - instead of wasting precious time and resources to support an agenda that rips apart families. Immigrants pay nearly \$100B in taxes and Social Security every year. Immigrants play a vital role in our economy, culture, and communities. We will be more successful as a community and as a state if we are using resources to facilitate public safety instead of terrorizing our neighbors and friends. Everyone benefits when we prioritize public trust over fear-driven political agendas.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we support a clean bill that removes the amendments added to the bill in the Judiciary Committee that require notification and transfer to ICE.** The sole purpose of this legislation is to end 287(g) agreements in Maryland, not to create or mandate new forms of collaboration with ICE. Local jurisdictions already have the discretion to engage with ICE if they choose; ending 287(g) agreements does not limit that existing authority. **We strongly support a clean bill that aligns**

**with the original intentions of the legislation - to simply terminate 287(g) agreements in Maryland.** This is what will bring Maryland closer to our values.

**I urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.**

Thank you,

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