

**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 a resident of Mount Rainier and member of Doctors for Camp Closure and the American Public Health Association (APHA). I am offering a "favorable with amendment" testimony in support of HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act).

I am familiar with the 287(g) program which is currently in effect in only three Maryland counties. One of them is Frederick County where I have had close friends attend Hood College. They have shared their personal experiences of racist policing and immigrant detention in Frederick County. The APHA has recognized that over-policing has negative health outcomes for communities and in 2018 passed a policy statement, "Addressing Law Enforcement Violence as a Public Health Issue". In 2017 the *Journal of Immigration and Security* published "Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population" by Michael Coon at the University of Tampa under a grant from the Hood College Board of Associates. Taken together these publications demonstrate the dangers to health and safety from current application of the 287(g) program. Further it diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors.

In Mount Rainier I have seen how immigrants distrusted the government even before the present efforts to expand ICE's outreach. Even documented immigrants were hesitant to access rental assistance during COVID-19. A program like 287(g) further erodes trust making residents less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Therefore I support the intent of this bill to end 287(g) programs throughout the state.

However this bill is weakened by amendments in the Judiciary Committee that require notification and transfer to ICE and these amendments should be removed. 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. I strongly support a clean bill that aligns with the original intentions of the legislation - to simply terminate 287(g) agreements in Maryland. I urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Linda D. Green MD