

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of **District 46**. I am **testifying in support of HB1222 - the Maryland Values Act with amendments.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Maryland Values Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active and prevent more from being created. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including: increased racial profiling¹, community fear², disruption of local policing priorities³, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust. In addition, the federal government loves these agreements because they funnel state resources into supporting federal law enforcement; this is not a burden state and local governments should be bearing, especially given the current budgetary chaos the withdrawal of federal funding is causing.

Unfortunately, although half this bill would strengthen protection for our immigrant community, half seems designed to weaken it. New amendments added in the House would mandate that law enforcement report individuals convicted of certain crimes to ICE, including any felony, and driving under the influence. This overly broad list will help funnel people who are not even dangerous to the community into Trump's deportation machine; it also substantially weakens protections for immigrants that already exist in certain counties. Being convicted of a felony does not in itself make someone deserving of being permanently exiled from their home and family.

Maryland's large immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. Immigrants produce billions of dollars in tax revenue as well as contributing to our economy. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to **vote in support of HB1222 - the Maryland Values Act, with amendments** to remove the harmful deportation requirement provision.

Sincerely,

John Preston Ford

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¹ [Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018](#)

² [Charles Powers; 287\(g\): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1](#)

³ [The 287\(g\) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council](#)