

## Testimony Against HB1222

Honorable Senators

Please enter an unfavorable report against HB1222.

I am against

- requiring an employee or agent of a State or local correctional facility and a law enforcement agent to provide certain notice of the release of an individual who is the subject of an active immigration detainer request and has been convicted of a certain crime of violence and transfer the individual to federal immigration authorities under certain circumstances;
- requiring the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement by July 1, 2025.

Although the language of the bill has been improved to change to notify federal agents 48 hours in advance of the planned release of a convict who is the subject of an active immigration detainer request, I believe the requirement to terminate any existing immigration enforcement agreements by July 1, 2025 is too egregious to recommend a favorable report. The State should not be able to override the desires of the citizens who support the enforcement agreements currently in effect in three counties.

I have reviewed the testimony from the prior hearing and I believe that the testimony of Sheriff Jeffrey R. Gahler and Sheriff Joseph Gamble better state the problems of this bill.

Sheriff Gahler stated in part:

In Harford County, we have proudly partnered with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the last 8 years through our 287(g) Agreement. If this Bill were to pass, we would be forced to end that partnership, a partnership that has resulted in the removal of 100's of dangerous criminals from our Harford County Community. The voters of Maryland spoke clearly in a survey just last month when an overwhelming majority (76%) said they wanted illegal immigrants who commit crimes to be identified and deported.

As Sheriff, the voters of Harford County elected me to provide law enforcement and correctional services in our community. I have been re-elected twice, both by large margins, and with their vote, our citizens have signaled that they approve of my public safety philosophy and the programs and partnerships I have implemented to keep our residents safe. If the 287(g) Program is not right for the voters of Montgomery or Prince Georges County, then they can choose not to enter into the partnership, but it is clearly a tool that has been effective in Harford County.

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Sheriff Gamble stated in part:

On average, our Department of Corrections house 7-9 illegal immigrants at any given time and the majority of those detained have been convicted of sex crimes most being child sexual abuse. The risk of the release of these individuals without local detainer agreements with the federal ICE can lead to negative consequences for public safety. As we have found a higher recidivism rate for those individuals who commit child sex abuse crimes.

Also, Ms. Trudy Tribbals submitted the following testimony, which stated in part

HB 1222 goes directly against President Trump's EO regarding illegal immigrants in our country. And our LEOs are going to be the ones who suffer for it. I live in Frederick County, MD, which is DIRECTLY affected by this bill. I do not want illegal immigrant criminals near my home and places that I frequent with my family. Since foreign immigrants entered our country illegally, we have seen an increase in crime, especially in violent crime and rape and sexual assault, an increase in drugs, especially Fentanyl, and an increase in Fentanyl related deaths, just to name a few of the negative effects.

I'm not against all immigration. I have friends whose families have immigrated legally to this country. I simply want illegal immigrant criminals removed from our country and returned to their country of origin. They have committed a crime by entering our country illegally and should be returned to their countries of origin.

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