Maryland Chiefs of Police Association
Maryland Sheriffs' Association

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and
            Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
            Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
            Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 27, 2025

RE: **HB 1222 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE** HB 1222, which will terminate existing 287(g) agreements and reduce notice time for individuals with active detainer warrants.

Six counties in Maryland have voluntarily entered into agreements under the 287(g) program to enhance public safety by identifying and removing individuals who have committed serious crimes. Three counties — Frederick, Harford, and Cecil — participate in the Jail Enforcement Model, where deputized officers can interrogate suspected individuals, who are charged with crimes, to determine their immigration status and issue immigration detainers. These detainers allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") to take custody of individuals who pose a danger to our communities.

Three other counties — Garrett, Carroll, and Washington — participate in the Warrant Service Officer model, where ICE trains, certifies, and authorizes selected state and local law enforcement officers to execute ICE administrative warrants. This model limits the authority of local officers to making arrests within correctional facilities without authorizing them to interrogate individuals regarding their immigration status. These agreements have provided Maryland law enforcement with critical tools to prevent threatening individuals from re-entering our communities.

This is **not a partisan issue.** Public opinion data consistently demonstrates that Marylanders overwhelmingly support cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities when it comes to apprehending individuals who have committed violent crimes.
- [A January 2025 Gonzalez Poll](#) **found that 76% of Maryland voters** support requiring local officials to cooperate with federal agents to identify, detain, and transfer noncitizens who have committed crimes.
- Support transcends party lines:

- **96% of Republicans,**
- **77% of Independents,** and
- **65% of Democrats** support such cooperation.

This bill's requirement to end all 287(g) programs throughout our state patently undermines the authority of local jurisdictions. 287(g) agreements are **voluntary** and jurisdictions who have implemented them made an informed decision that they believe is necessary to protect their communities. If the 287(g) program is not right for certain counties, they have the authority to choose not to enter into such agreements. HB 1222, however, imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate that strips local jurisdictions of their ability to make determinations that best serve the safety and well-being of their communities.

Another concern is that under this bill, if requested by ICE authorities, an employee or agent of a state or local correctional facility is required to provide notice of the release of an individual within 48 hours before the actual release. This language on page 3, lines 13-16 leaves room for notice to be given to ICE in as little as an hour or less before the release. As written, this bill would limit state and local law enforcement from notifying ICE in an adequate timeframe about the release of individuals with active detainers, including those convicted of crimes of violence. We would suggest modifying the language to state that the notice must be given to ICE no later than 48 hours before the individual's release. This amendment would ensure that ICE and the law enforcement can coordinate the mandated transfer.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE HB 1222** and urges an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report.