

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,

My name is Paul Holmes and I am a long-time resident of Silver Spring, Maryland. I offer **favorable with amendments** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

Trump's deportation machine is in high gear, already "disappearing" U.S. residents with minimum trace and no due process. The fear and anxiety in our community and places of worship is high and palpable. We must take action now to slow down the very real risk of harm to Maryland's families and communities!

287g partnerships between the Department of Homeland Security and state and local law enforcement make us all less safe by eroding public trust in police and scaring people from being witnesses, reporting crime and cooperating in investigations. It is well-documented that 287g actions encourage rampant racial-profiling and target low level offenders (e.g. misdemeanors and traffic violations), not those who commit violent crimes. 287g incentivizes pretextual stops to channel victims into ICE's deportation system.

Moreover, 287g is an unfunded mandate. The State of Maryland and our local jurisdictions all face serious fiscal challenges. 287g actions only add more to the plates of already struggling law enforcement and corrections agencies and divert local resources to do ICE's job for them.

287g actions are bad for Maryland. We need you to **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**.