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**Cecil County Sheriff's Office
Scott A. Adams, Sheriff**

House Bill 1222 – Oppose

Public Safety- Immigration Enforcement

Letter of Opposition to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 25, 2025

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, I am pleased to submit this letter of opposition to House Bill 1222.

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. I am hopeful that this Committee will support the will of the people to ensure we have the ability to work cooperatively with all of our federal partners to keep our communities safe.

Across our Country, public safety partners are sharing information and working cooperatively to identify and remove dangerous criminals who are in this Country illegally. In Cecil County, we have proudly partnered with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) since 2017, through our 287(g)-jail model Agreement.

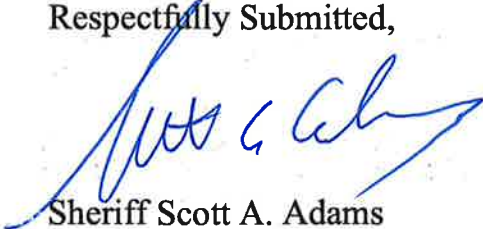
In the form of some background, ICE's 287(g) Program was established under President Bill Clinton in the 1990s and has remained a vital public safety program and partnership for more than 30 years through each changing Presidential Administration. In fact, we were accepted into the Program under President Obama's expansion of 287(g) during his Administration. If this Bill were to pass, we would be forced to end that partnership, a partnership that has resulted in the removal of many dangerous criminals from our Cecil County Community.

Thanks to our 287(g) program we were able to identify an individual who had 13 convictions in 8 states, to include Sexual touching of a Minor. This individual was illegally in our Country and his illegal status was not identified in those states. As a result, we turned him over to ICE authorities to start the deportation process, thus removing a dangerous individual from our community.

As Sheriff, the voters of Cecil 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 Cecil County.

I am hopefully that this Committee will allow Harford, Cecil and Frederick County to continue these important public safety partnerships and allow us to continue to work cooperatively with all of our federal partners to keep our communities safe. I would strongly urge an unfavorable report of HB 1222.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheriff Scott A. Adams