

Copy of HB0275 - Child support- multifamily adjust

Uploaded by: Alicia Pereschuk

Position: FAV

Dear the 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 Out for Justice. I am a resident of District #43. **I am testifying in support of HB0275: Child Support Multifamily Adjustment.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Due to a variety of factors, a parent may be supporting both children who live in their home, and children who do not. Currently, the determination of what child support a parent can afford to pay does not take into account whether they are also supporting children in their household. These children may not necessarily be biologically their own, but such blended families are common, and these children are not any less deserving of support from their caretakers. The more children that are being raised, logically, the more expensive it is to support the family. When the court does not take these situations into consideration, the resulting child support award may force the person paying the support to pay less than is ordered, or to shirk their responsibility for the other children in the household. In either case, the obligation for support is thrown more heavily on the other parent/caretaker.

HB0275 would mandate that the court considering a child support award consider any children in the household of the payor, and grant an allowance for such children in their calculations. This will not only lead to more equitable results, it will increase the likelihood of consistent and full child support payments.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to **vote in support of HB0275: Child Support-Multifamily Adjustment.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alicia Pereschuk
319 Homeland Southway
Baltimore MD 21212
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

HB1222_AnnaRubin_JUFJ_FWA-2.pdf

Uploaded by: ANNA RUBIN

Position: FAV

March 27, 2025



Dr. Anna Rubin
Columbia, MD 21045

Testimony on HB 1222 - Favorable with Amendments

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

To: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Dr. Anna Rubin, on behalf of Jews United for Justice

I am writing on behalf of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) to urge you to return a **favorable report, with amendments, on HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**. JUFJ organizes 6,000 Jewish Marylanders and allies from across the state in support of social, racial, and economic justice. JUFJ has worked in past years in coalition with various groups to pass legislation that permitted undocumented immigrants: 1) the right to get a driver's license; 2) access to Medicaid for pregnant people; 3) access to Maryland Health Connection. Further, JUFJ helped organize the successful opposition to Howard County's IGSA agreement which permitted detained immigrants to be held in its county jail.

At its core, HB1222 is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda. The program has been costly for localities, has historically targeted individuals with little or no criminal history, and has harmed the relationship between police and local communities.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, on behalf of JUFJ, I urge the passage of a clean bill that removes the amendments added to the bill in the House Judiciary Committee that require notification and transfer to ICE. These provisions mandate detention and transfer, which courts and the Maryland Attorney General have flagged as likely unconstitutional, exposing local governments to potential liability. Holding individuals past their scheduled release for civil immigration matters violates individuals' constitutional rights, making it unlawful. In addition to being unlawful, delayed release and transfer result in wasted state resources. We strongly support a clean bill that aligns with the original intentions of the legislation to simply terminate 287(g) agreements in Maryland.

On behalf of JUFJ, **I urge the committee to provide a favorable report, with amendments, on HB 1222.**

Testimony HB 1222- Favorable with Amendments - UUL

Uploaded by: Ashley Egan

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony – HB 1222 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act) - FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Senator Smith, Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Jim Caldiero, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of MD,
Lead Advocate, Immigration
Date: March 27, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)** that will end Section 287g Interservice Governmental Agreements (287g Agreements) between the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local law enforcement agencies in Maryland. **We ask for a favorable report with amendments offered by CASA.**

As you may know, Section 287g of the Immigration and Nationality Act allows local entities to collaborate with the federal government to enforce federal immigration laws.

Maryland's Attorney General Anthony Brown's recently issued guidance to law enforcement clearly acknowledges that the negotiated Memoranda of Agreements (MOA) between ICE and local law enforcement agencies contradict Maryland law enforcement practices. For example, ICE MOAs deputize local law enforcement officers to ascertain an individual's immigration status. However, Attorney General Brown's guidance notes that officers cannot inquire about immigration status unless it is relevant to a criminal investigation, are not required to share immigration/citizenship status with federal officials, and may not extend detentions to investigate immigration status. In addition, Howard County's Liberty Act also precludes ANY county employee from inquiring about citizenship status, not only law enforcement.

Moreover, participation in 287g agreements is disadvantageous to Maryland and its residents. The program is fraught with unconstitutional racial and ethnic profiling.

For example:

- A 2011 federal Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation determined that Arizona's Maricopa County Sheriff's Office had conducted routine sweeps in Latino neighborhoods and that Latino drivers were nine times more likely to be stopped than non-Latino drivers.
- A DOJ investigation in North Carolina found that Latino drivers were more than 10 times more likely to be stopped than non-Latino drivers.
- A 2022 study by Texas A&M University found that these discriminatory practices among agencies with 287g agreements spilled over into surrounding non--287g agreement jurisdictions.

- The Migration Policy Institute found that half of all detainees were for people who had committed misdemeanors and traffic offenses.
- A University of North Carolina study found that officers under 287g agreements primarily targeted offenders who posed no threat to public safety or had no criminal records.

I may not be an attorney—but I studied constitutional law and history in graduate school—and it is obvious that the practices of local law enforcement agencies participating in 287g agreements violate due process protections by apprehending residents and detaining and transporting them to ICE without any hearing before a judge. As noted, individuals with no criminal background—or only misdemeanor violations—are caught up in this questionable deportation quagmire. Local resources, that could be better spent on patrols and the enforcement of serious crimes, may be diverted to the apprehension of individuals who have committed traffic violations.

Are we sure this is an effective use of law enforcement resources?

My faith, which I share with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists in Maryland, calls me to promote and affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to seek justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Because 287g programs are filled with racial and ethnic profiling, and expend resources targeting individuals who have no criminal records, the participation of local law enforcement in the 287g program is in clear contradiction to my Unitarian Universalist moral values and the values that are shared by Marylanders in our Declaration of Rights.

I encourage you to VOTE IN FAVOR of HB 1222 to End 287g Agreements.

Thank you,
 Jim Caldiero,
 Home Address: 4128 Lotus Circle, Ellicott City, MD 21043,
 Cell: 443-520-1568

Sources:

Maryland AG Brown Press Release,

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2025/012725a.pdf>

American Immigration Council, 287g Program Overview,

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/287g-program-immigration>

Texas A&M Study, <https://scholarship.law.tamu.edu/facscholar/1555/>

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd [www.Twitter.com/uulmmd](https://www.twitter.com/uulmmd)

Testimony for HB1222 (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Ashley Hoard

Position: FAV



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,

North Baltimore Mennonite Church offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

My name is Ashley Hoard and I am the associate pastor at North Baltimore Mennonite Church in Baltimore City. Our church cares about immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Our faith informs us to take care of the least of these in our community and our community is strengthened by having multiple voices at the table - this includes immigrants and their families.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

Our congregation houses asylum seekers and our people are worried about our changing political climate. ICE seems to be very interested in the house where these documented asylum seekers live. If we blur the lines between police and ICE agents, how do these folks determine who will keep them safe in an emergency?

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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.

North Baltimore Mennonite Church **urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.** Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley Hoard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed contact information.

Ashley Hoard
ashley@bmoremenno.org
North Baltimore Mennonite Church
4615 Roland Ave
Baltimore, MD 21210

MLU Support Letter - HB1222 Crossover.pdf

Uploaded by: Carlos Orbe, Jr.

Position: FAV

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Maryland General Assembly
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Support for House Bill 1222 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act) – Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chair Clippinger and Esteemed Committee Members,

At Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU), we are steadfast in our commitment to advocating for the rights and dignity of Latino and immigrant communities throughout our state. Our mission is to promote equity, justice, and community empowerment, ensuring that all residents, regardless of their immigration status, are treated with fairness and respect. Through our direct services, community engagement, and advocacy efforts, we have witnessed firsthand the detrimental impact that entanglement between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities has on our communities.

House Bill 1222, the Maryland Values Act, embodies the principles of fairness, dignity, and justice that are central to our state's identity. By seeking to end programs like 287(g), this legislation aims to prevent the diversion of local resources into federal deportation agendas, thereby preserving the trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement. We have observed that when local agencies act as extensions of federal immigration enforcement, it leads to racial profiling, wrongful detentions, and a pervasive fear that deters individuals from reporting crimes or seeking essential services.

However, while we strongly support the intent of HB 1222, we recommend amendments to remove Sections 9-309(A), 9-309(B), and 5-104(5). These provisions mandate detention and transfer protocols that have been flagged by courts and the Maryland Attorney General as potentially unconstitutional, exposing local governments to significant legal liabilities. Detaining individuals beyond their scheduled release for civil immigration matters not only infringes upon constitutional rights but also misallocates state resources. By eliminating these sections, Maryland can uphold due process and ensure that our criminal justice system remains distinct from federal immigration enforcement.

In our work, we have encountered numerous instances where community members, fearing deportation, hesitate to engage with law enforcement, even when they are victims or witnesses of crimes. This reluctance undermines public safety and erodes the social fabric of our communities. By passing HB 1222 with the recommended amendments, Maryland can reinforce its commitment to protecting all residents, fostering an environment where trust in public institutions is restored.

We urge the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1222, incorporating the suggested amendments. This action will affirm Maryland's dedication to justice, equity, and the well-being of all its communities.

Sincerely,

Carlos Orbe, Jr.
Communications and Public Affairs Specialist
Maryland Latinos Unidos
corbejr@mdlatinosunidos.org

Carrington 2025 PGC HB1222 Position Statement Immi

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB1222

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Delegate Williams, et.al

POSITION:

SUPPORT

The Prince George's County Council has a long and distinguished history of protecting the rights and dignity of all its residents, ensuring that our communities remain safe, inclusive, and just. House Bill 1222, the Maryland Values Act, aligns with these principles by establishing clear limitations on local law enforcement's role in federal immigration enforcement while upholding public safety.

This legislation ensures that individuals in our communities—regardless of their immigration status—can live without fear of unnecessary detention or unwarranted involvement with federal immigration authorities. By prohibiting new immigration enforcement agreements and requiring the termination of existing ones, HB 1222 prevents the diversion of local resources toward federal immigration enforcement, allowing law enforcement to focus on fostering trust and addressing public safety concerns within our communities.

Prince George's County has consistently advocated for policies that uphold justice, fairness, and equal treatment under the law. HB 1222 reinforces these values by ensuring that local law enforcement agencies are not compelled to act as extensions of federal immigration authorities except in cases involving individuals convicted of violent crimes. This approach strikes an appropriate balance between community safety and the fundamental rights of all residents.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 1222** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

Wayne K. Curry Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

HB1222 Favorable 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Debi Jasen

Position: FAV

Judicial Proceedings Committee
House Bill 1222
FAVORABLE

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

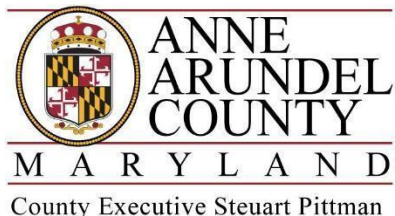
Please give House Bill 1222 a Favorable report. I think it's a good balance between valid concerns about crime and the issues involved in having local law enforcement act as ICE agents. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD

Anne Arundel County _FAV_HB1222_JPR.pdf

Uploaded by: Ethan Hunt

Position: FAV



March 27, 2025

House Bill 1222
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1222 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act). This Bill would prohibit local jurisdictions from entering into agreements that authorize the state, local government, or any of their agents, officers, or employees to enforce civil immigration law.

When I took office, Anne Arundel County was one of three Maryland counties that participated in the program authorized under Section 287(g) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act, commonly known as 287g. Under 287g, county detention staff working under the supervision of an ICE program manager screened prisoners for immigration status during intake at the Jennifer Road Detention Center, after individuals were already in custody for committing a crime. While the information about each foreign-born detainee was entered into the ICE database, not a single individual was actually turned over to ICE custody until the crime for which they were arrested was adjudicated, whether that crime was violent or minor. In other words, those criminals served their time in jail, regardless of the 287g program. Without the 287g program, ICE still would have detained these same individuals, because they knew someone was in custody within an hour of arrest through information sharing with the Department of Homeland Security.

I made the decision to terminate our County's 287g agreement based on feedback from our public safety professionals and community members. Anne Arundel County and Maryland have been shaken by the gruesome murders of young Latino residents by members of MS-13, which extorts payments from immigrants who fear the prospect of being deported. Our police department understands that the only way to put MS-13 out of business locally is to protect and win the trust of the people MS-13 preys upon. Many of these people fled El Salvador and other Central American countries seeking asylum from the gang violence that has terrorized their communities. Most are here working in local businesses, paying taxes, and hoping that the great American political pendulum swings back to the place where immigrants were given a path to citizenship, as they were during the presidency of Ronald Reagan. These people fear ICE, and while our police were not deputized to act as agents of ICE, the community was well aware that our detention staff played that role. Therefore, members of our immigrant communities often made a decision to avoid interacting with the police, for fear that family and friends would be vulnerable to ICE deportation. That was an obstacle to our police department's efforts to protect these communities and all residents from MS-13 and other threats to their safety.

Ending 287g in Anne Arundel County aligned us with the vast majority of counties across the state and country. It did not increase crime as the program's advocates claimed it

would, nor it did hinder the legal enforcement activities ICE undertakes. What it did do was separate criminal law enforcement and immigration enforcement, a longstanding principle espoused by politicians across the political spectrum. Anne Arundel County, as do most counties, continues to cooperate with ICE through a federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program known as Secure Communities.

Given our own experience with 287g in Anne Arundel County, I do not believe it to be a program that is effective, nor a responsible use of local resources. In our own case, it actually proved to be a hindrance to protecting our residents and an impediment to enforcing criminal laws. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1222.



Steuart Pittman
County Executive

HB1222 - Maryland Values Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Holly Powell

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judiciary 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.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Maryland Values Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in Cecil, Hartford, and Frederick Counties. 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 profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, 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.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resulting “chilling effect” in Hispanic communities.¹ Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to “wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program”² Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who “posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%.”³

The last Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite urban areas citing costs and the impact on community relations. DHS removed expiration dates and other guardrails that provided any attempted reforms and changes to the agreements under the Obama administration⁴. This is likely to again occur to the reforms the Biden administration put into effect. Additionally, the American Immigration Council cites that ICE already has proven ineffective at following federal policies put in place to attempt to curb these negative effects.

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. In 2018, Maryland’s immigrant communities were contributing \$8 billion in federal and \$4 billion in state taxes, providing

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](#)

4

[License to Abuse: How ICE’s 287\(g\) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\); April, 26, 2022](#)

\$2billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power⁵. 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.

Sincerely,

Holly Powell

2308 Cambridge Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

HB 1222 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Nash

Position: FAV



FREDERICK

MARYLAND

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee: HB1222: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

March 27, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I serve as the City Council President for Maryland's second largest city, the City of Frederick. I offer a favorable with amendment testimony for HB 1222. We are home to over 85,000 residents and welcome many more visitors each year. The 287(g) program contradicts the City of Frederick's values, reflected in our Vision Statement that includes: "All voices are encouraged and respected, fostering one of the most civically engaged cities in America."¹

Respectfully I submit to you that this is the year to end outdated and irrelevant programs. As a City Council President approaching budget season, I can attest that we must end programs that have long-since been proven to lack public accountability, effectiveness, and justification. The legislation before you seeks to ensure that our resources are not diverted to enforce federal immigration laws.

Program Outcomes: 287(g) Lacks Public Accountability

Evaluation of this program is difficult because there is little disclosed helpful information. Frederick County boasts one of the "longest standing partnerships" in the country, operating since 2008: what do the residents have to show for this distraction? The program has been in existence for nearly 20 years with no meaningful reporting of how the spent resources provides any public benefit. Appearances on *Fox News* is not public accountability and attempting to research 287(g) only leaves more questions. The program states that it is for the:

"identification of illegal aliens who have been arrested for the commission of crimes through the booking process, and have detainers placed on them to begin removal ... [as] appropriate by ICE".²

¹ The CommUNITY 2030 Plan is visible here:

<https://www.cityoffrederickmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17606/20191219-Strategic-Plan-Master-Doc> and our full Vision Statement is found on page 29. We have worked to improve our civic engagement, most recently, by extending voting rights to all residents for City elections, effective this year for our 2025 election.

² Visit <https://www.frederickcosheriff.com/287g-program> and witness the lack of information provided to the community.

One known outcome? Racial profiling.³ This body has worked hard, in partnership with law enforcement, to eradicate the unjust actions that the 287(g) program actually encourages.

Program Effectiveness: 287(g) Diverts Public Safety Resources

Participation in this program makes our communities less safe: when our law enforcement staff time goes toward doing ICE's job for them they do not have time to building cooperation with our immigrant communities - let alone enforce speeding, deterring drunk driving when the bars close, or solving crimes in our neighborhoods. We want members of our community to feel safe in reporting crime: this is common sense. The simple truth that immigrants are more likely to be victims of crimes than are U.S. citizens. This program doesn't do what it was intended to do.⁴

Program Implementation: Maryland General Assembly Audit Responsibilities

I urge the committee to provide a favorable with amendments report on HB 1222. The legislature is within its authority to review, deliberate, and ultimately find that a program decreases the safety of the residents of our state. The governments that entered into agreements, some dating back to 2008, have failed to demonstrate compelling outcomes that match the necessary public safety resource diversion. Politically-motivated hate speech that is often heard in defense with this program: what justification exists to use local resources to carry out federal mandates?

Standardize law enforcement, improve public safety, and end this practice. An end of 287(g) is necessary: I respectfully ask for your help to protect Marylanders and pass HB 1222.

³ The program incentivizes pretextual stops to pipeline them into ICE's deportation system. In Frederick alone, the Sheriff has settled two racial profiling lawsuits, including Sara Medrano's in 2019, of residents whose only crimes were being at work, or driving home, while Latine. In [Medrano vs. Jenkins](#), the Sheriff's Department and the County were famously sued by Latina Frederick resident Sara Medrano for racial profiling and wrongful detention. On July 7, 2018, Sara Medrano was driving with her daughter and grandchildren when two Frederick sheriff's deputies stopped her – purportedly for a broken taillight – and questioned where she was from and what her immigration status was. Then the deputies unlawfully tried to hold her for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in violation of the Fourth Amendment. When Ms. Medrano finally returned home, she realized that her taillight was working just fine and that the deputies, in fact, stopped and questioned her because she was Latina. The case was settled, awarding Medrano hundreds in damages, along with a written apology from Sheriff Jenkins for the misconduct she endured.

⁴ Supporters of 287(g) use political grandstanding and fear to keep this program alive. Their unsubstantiated claims relating to public safety have been found to be false. In my own home county of Frederick County, data shows that 80% of 287(g) detainees have been for minor Level 3 offenses, or misdemeanors, and 60% for traffic violations.

HB1222 Maryland Values Act WITH AMENDMENTS.pdf

Uploaded by: Ken Phelps Jr

Position: FAV



FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
TESTIMONY REGARDING HB1222
Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

TO: Senator William C. Smith, Chair, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair, and all members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee;
FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, co-chair of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network. (MEPPN);
DATE: March 27, 2025

The National Episcopal Church and the Maryland Episcopal Diocese have consistently supported the rights of immigrants. On January 21, 2025, our leaders stated:

“As Christians, our faith is shaped by the biblical story of people whom God led into foreign countries to escape oppression. Exodus tells us the story of the ancient Israelites escaping slavery in the land of Egypt and wandering in the wilderness without a home. In Leviticus 19:33-34, God commands that we remember this sojourn as part of our own story of faith: ‘When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.’

Now, as Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:12-19, we are no longer aliens. Christ Jesus has made us citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. As we read in 1 Peter 2:9-12, we have received God’s mercy, and we must demonstrate this sacrificial love in our lives and deeds. Because our true citizenship is not here on earth but in heaven, we are called to transcend the earthly distinctions made among us by the leaders of this world. We must proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is promised to the persecuted and answer Christ’s call to welcome the stranger among us. This vision of God’s kingdom, this new reality, is the one to which we Christians are pledged in our baptism above any political preference or policy, and to which our church must bear witness through word and deed. This sacred call shapes both our churchwide commitment to stand with migrants and the ministries of congregations across our church who serve vulnerable immigrants and refugees in their communities.

Since the late 19th century, The Episcopal Church has followed this call by welcoming immigrants and refugees to the United States...We **urge our new**



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal
Public Policy
Network

president and congressional leaders to exercise mercy and compassion, especially toward law-abiding, long-term members of our congregations and communities; parents and children who are under threat of separation in the name of immigration enforcement; and women and children who are vulnerable to abuse in detention and who fear reporting abuse to law enforcement.”

We support this Bill with amendments because it upholds Maryland values and preserves the dignity and respect of immigrants who are children of God by providing community safety, due process and equal treatment under the law.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a FAVORABLE report on Bill HB1222.

hb1222 immigrant status- MD values JPR 3-27-2025.p

Uploaded by: Lee Hudson

Position: FAV



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony Prepared for the
Judicial Proceedings Committee
on
House Bill 1222
March 27, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about justice and human rights in the social complex of human movement. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a faith community with judicatories in every part of the State.

Our global communion has addressed human movement since 1939 when the entire planet was awash in refugees with our international organization, Global Refuge, at 700 Light Street in Baltimore. This organization assists and sponsors those without a permanent home, wherever they may be from, to wherever they may come to reside.

We have learned much about human movement as a result of our global work. Most people categorized as refugees are fleeing for their lives from famine, natural disaster, war, social collapse, extreme poverty, or targeted persecution. They are not threats because they are refugees. They are not criminals because they are fleeing. Crimes committed by any individual in the United States can be policed and adjudicated with current law.

House Bill 1222 would prevent Maryland subdivisions from subcontracting their services and facilities to ICE for the purpose of expanding immigration authority into local law enforcement. There has been testimony in the Maryland General Assembly for decades about why this compromises the ability of local law enforcement agencies to police their communities effectively. Our understanding of refugee communities concurs with that observation.

Obtaining papers for lawful presence in the United States issues from a national, that is federal authority, and therefore responsibility. It is the responsibility of the United States Congress legislation. The processes for lawful presence in the U.S. are arduous, lengthy, and legal, and none of it is in the purview of Maryland law. Immigrants have so little agency in the processes, we hold that they cannot be held accountable for their lawful status.

For all these reasons, and for the more direct instance of human rights justice, we urge your favorable report for this bill.

Lee Hudson

Badeker_HB1222 - Maryland Values Act crossover.pdf

Uploaded by: Melissa Badeker

Position: FAV

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 8.

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,

Melissa Badeker
3020 Linwood Avenue, Parkville MD 21234
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



Showing Up for Racial Justice

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](#)

Hilliard MD HB1222 Maryland Values Act_Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Hilliard

Position: FAV



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

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LEAP UK

Date: March 28, 2025

Re: HBI222 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: The Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Hilliard, and I served for 27 years with the Baltimore Police Department working in patrol, narcotics, internal affairs, youth programs, and later as a Major overseeing 911 operations. After retiring from law enforcement, I continued serving my community as the Community Services Director at HARBEL, a nonprofit focused on crime prevention, addiction recovery, and neighborhood support.

I'm here today on behalf of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) in strong support of HBI222, the Maryland Values Act. LEAP is a nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who speak from firsthand experience. Our mission is to make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety, promoting alternatives to arrest and incarceration, addressing the root causes of crime, and working toward healing police-community relations.

Public safety depends on trust between law enforcement and the people we serve. When community members are afraid that calling the police could lead to an immigration inquiry, cooperation with law enforcement breaks down. Throughout my career, I have seen firsthand how important it is for people to feel safe reporting crimes, coming forward as witnesses, and engaging with officers without fear. When that trust erodes, crimes go unreported, victims stay silent, and dangerous offenders remain on the streets.

This is why local law enforcement should not be in the business of immigration enforcement. Our role is to protect and serve the community, not act as federal

LawEnforcementActionPartnership.org

Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

immigration agents. [Programs like 287\(g\) blur that line, making it harder for officers to build relationships with the people they are sworn to protect.](#) We have seen cases where individuals, even victims of serious crimes like domestic violence and assault, refused to call 911 because they feared an interaction with law enforcement could lead to deportation. When that happens, the entire community suffers.

Beyond the trust issue, 287(g) agreements also waste valuable local law enforcement resources. Officers already face the challenge of investigating violent crime, responding to emergencies, and addressing community concerns. Every officer assigned to immigration enforcement is one fewer officer available to handle those critical responsibilities. [These agreements also create unnecessary financial burdens for local agencies,](#) forcing them to dedicate time, training, and detention space to federal immigration enforcement rather than local priorities.

287(g) agreements raise serious legal and constitutional concerns by entangling local governments in federal immigration enforcement. [Counties across the country, including in Maryland, have faced legal challenges and financial settlements over wrongful detentions tied to 287\(g\) agreements.](#) The Maryland Attorney General and legal experts have warned that provisions mandating detention and transfer under 287(g) create constitutional risks and legal liability for local agencies. Removing Sections 9-309(A), 9-309(B), and 5-104(5) ensures that Maryland upholds constitutional rights while avoiding unnecessary legal and financial burdens on law enforcement.

HBI222 is a public safety bill. It will restore trust in law enforcement, ensure that officers focus on the crimes that truly impact Maryland communities, and protect the state from costly lawsuits tied to constitutional violations. Ending 287(g) agreements will help officers do their jobs more effectively while keeping communities safer for everyone.

As a former police officer and community leader, I urge this committee to support HBI222. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Maj. Mike Hilliard (Ret.)
Baltimore Police Department, Maryland
Speaker, Law Enforcement Action Partnership

(SENATE) DNW HB 1222 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Nicole Williams

Position: FAV

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Chair, Public Safety Subcommittee

Vice Chair, Democratic Caucus

Chair, Prince George's
County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 27, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 1222

Good afternoon, Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and the members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams, and I will be testifying in favor of House Bill 1222, also known as **Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**. This bill would prohibit any agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into a certain voluntary immigration enforcement agreement with the federal government. What this bill does not do is state that local law enforcement will not cooperate with any valid warrants or detainer requests that are issued as it relates to individuals who are convicted of a crime of violence, a felony, a DUI, or involved with a criminal organization, aka a gang, here in the State of Maryland.

This legislation comes at a critically important time in the history of our nation and our state. As Marylanders, we are in the backyard of a federal administration that has wasted no time in targeting and uprooting individuals who live in my community and your communities. These individuals left the countries where they were born to come here in search of the American Dream and to create a better life for themselves and their families. The individuals that 287(g) programs target are individuals who go to work, go to school, and raise their children here in Maryland. The 287(g) program is a mechanism through which certain communities are terrorized and creates fear of cooperation with law enforcement. Under these agreements, state and local governments can voluntarily collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enforce federal immigration laws. In doing so, police officers are deputized to perform immigration-related functions, despite being offered minimal training or guidance to do so.

As of March 24th, 2025, [ICE has reported 153 agreements with law enforcement agencies across the country](#). At the time when the bill was filed, Maryland had three counties

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

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Vice Chair, Democratic Caucus

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

with active programs: Harford, Cecil, and Frederick. Since this bill was heard in the House Judiciary Committee, three more counties have also had their 287(g) agreements recently approved: Carroll, Washington, and Garrett. Additionally, St. Mary's County currently has a pending 287(g) application. The time to pass HB 1222 is now.

Each of these aforementioned localities is obligated to spend its funds to participate in the program, despite the Department of Homeland Security having one of the largest budgets of any federal agency. ICE provides training, equipment, and oversight, but offers no form of reimbursement for the staff time or overtime incurred by localities. In a budget year where our state is facing a substantial deficit, it makes financial sense to prohibit and sunset 287(g) programs and transfer those savings back to programs that uplift our communities.

Ending 287(g) programs in our state also makes moral sense when we consider its inconsistency with the values we Marylanders hold dear. Our state has a history of protecting immigrant communities, keeping families together, and opposing the anti-immigrant agenda that has taken hold in our federal government. This legislature has historically passed legislation to protect our immigrant neighbors, including the [Maryland Dream Act of 2012](#), the [Dignity Not Detention Act in 2021](#), the [Family Prosperity Act in 2023](#), and the [Healthy Babies Equity Act of 2023](#). Standing up for the most marginalized in our society is part of who we are as Marylanders, and it only makes sense to take this step forward by ending 287(g) programs in our state.

Ending 287(g) programs in our state is not without precedent. Formerly, Anne Arundel County had a contract from 2017 until its termination in 2019. In a [report evaluating the program issued by the County Executive's office](#), they found that the 287(g) program "had no meaningful impact on keeping county residents and visitors safe, nor does it assist in the county's effort to identify and arrest violent criminals." Other states have also passed legislation or issued directives to effectively end 287(g) programs, including California in 2017, New Jersey in 2018, Washington in 2019, Illinois in 2021, and Colorado in 2023. A slew of other states have also chosen not to ever participate in 287(g) programs, including Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming. If others can do it, and continue to maintain safe communities for their residents, so can we.

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Chair, Public Safety Subcommittee

Vice Chair, Democratic Caucus

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This point was proven in my own county and district on February 27th, when [ICE and the FBI apprehended a high-ranking member of the MS-13 international gang in Hyattsville, MD.](#) Prince George's County does not have an active 287(g) agreement, yet ICE was still able to carry out its duties and arrest an individual who was here illegally and had a history of criminal charges, including possession of a firearm, extortion, and terrorist affiliation.

My office has been engaged in constant conversation with key stakeholders who expressed some concerns regarding the language in the bill as it was introduced. The version of the bill that is before you today is the result of tireless work from our colleagues in the House and our partners in the immigration advocacy space.

Think about what it would mean to keep this program in place and subject our neighbors to continue living in fear. 287(g) programs tear apart the fabric of our communities through stigmatization, suspicion, and separation. It is time to bring 287(g) programs to an end and keep Maryland on the right path forward.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 1222.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicole Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.

HB1222 - Maryland Values Act crossover_BH.pdf

Uploaded by: Barbara Hauck

Position: FWA

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 45. I am a voter, homeowner, and active community member. **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,

Barbara Hauck

3420 Harford Road

Baltimore, MD 21218

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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](#)

CANDLE testimony for HB1222 - Senate Judicial Proc

Uploaded by: Birgit Sharp

Position: FWA



Testimony of CANDLE

Regarding House Bill 1222 the Maryland Values Act

Submitted by Birgit Sharp, March 25, 2025

Favorable with Amendments

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of CANDLE, the Community Action Network for Democracy, Liberties and Equality, based in Anne Arundel and Calvert counties.

Our organization supports House Bill 1222, the Maryland Values Act. Enacting this bill will mean that state law enforcement funding will go towards enhancing public safety rather than 287(g) programs that increase racial profiling and reduce the effectiveness of policing.

In our view, Maryland needs to draw a line between state and federal law enforcement responsibilities and policies. Reasserting states' rights is especially urgent for immigration policy. Sheriff departments in three Maryland counties currently are deputized as agents for the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under "287(g)" agreements, which have a long and fraught history. Researchers and federal auditors have identified numerous problems with this ICE program, including the following significant issues:

- **Diverts taxpayer money, earmarked for Maryland public safety, to the enforcement of federal civil immigration laws:** The three Maryland counties, Harford, Cecil and Frederick, with 287(g) agreements, receive millions of dollars of state crime prevention grants each year. But it is clear from the large number of verified detainee days that much of this funding is siphoned off to pay for arbitrary and cruel immigration enforcement policies instead.
- **Reduces public safety:** 287(g) programs make legal immigrants and undocumented immigrants alike reluctant to cooperate with police, hindering crime-solving efforts.
- **Increases racial profiling:** Since its inception, the 287(g) program has been riddled with problems of racial profiling. Despite numerous efforts to create operational standards and requirements for closer federal supervision, egregious abuses have continued. For this reason, in 2022, the UN recommended ending programs like 287(g).
- **Incurs additional taxpayer costs when officers violate civil rights laws:** In *Medrano vs Jenkins* [i] the Frederick Sheriff's Department was required to pay \$125,000 in damages, costs and attorneys' fees when Miss Medrano's civil liberties were violated in their pursuit of detaining undocumented immigrants.

Please see Appendix A for more details about recommended amendment, and Appendix B about 287(g) programs.

CANDLE urges the Committee to issue a favorable report for HB 1222. This bill would end problematic 287(g) agreements in Maryland, and allow local law enforcement agencies to prioritize state and local resources for cases involving undocumented individuals convicted of violent crimes. Perhaps even more importantly, it would be stopping federal overreach in our communities at this point in our country's unprecedented cruel and unlawfulness.

candle.shines25@gmail.com

Far better to light the candle, than to curse the darkness.

Appendix A

Amendment Recommendation: As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we 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.

Appendix B

The inappropriate diversion of taxpayer money - The Sheriff Offices in the three counties currently have 287(g) agreements with ICE under the Jail Enforcement Model of 287(g). Those counties have received millions of dollars in grants from the State of Maryland for crime prevention. [ii] However, federal data tells us that those state grant dollars are not exclusively spent to ensure safer communities for Marylanders, but also have been used to round up federal civil immigration law violators. [i] Moreover, ICE does not allocate any money for salaries or overtime, even during ICE's 4-week training period for the Sheriff's Office staff.

Reduces public safety - Studies from a variety of sources provide hard evidence that legal immigrants and undocumented immigrants alike are reluctant to report crimes that they know of, or were victims of, to the police. In a letter to Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, 120 police officers, prosecutors, sheriffs, and other law enforcement professionals from 37 states and the District of Columbia said "the 287(g) program needs to end immediately in order to increase crime reporting and strengthen local law enforcement." And "This collaboration encourages crime in immigrant communities because victims and witnesses refuse to report crimes to the police to avoid immigration status interviews..."[iii]

Increases racial profiling - There is substantial evidence that 287(g) programs increase racial profiling, and this further costs Maryland taxpayers for the damage awards and court costs.[i] The UN's International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination filed a report on the United States of America which specifically cited the 287(g) program as a source of racial profiling which should be eliminated.[iv] A 2017 study of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office's (FCSO) 287(g) program found significant increases in Latino arrests counterbalanced by a drop in arrests of white and black people following the program's implementation in 2008.[v]

[i] Frederick County, Case 1:19-cv-02038-RDB Document 1 (Medrano Complaint) Filed 07/11/19:
https://www.aclu-md.org/sites/default/files/1_-_medrano_v_jenkins_compl.pdf

[ii] Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy Grant Map - information for grant awards listed as active in GMS as of July 1, 2024: <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/interactive-grant-map/>

[iii] <https://lawenforcementactionpartnership.org/immigrant-trust/>

[iv] United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, CERD/C/USA/CO/10-12, 21 Sept 2022:
<https://docs.un.org/en/CERD/C/USA/CO/10-12>

[v] "Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population" by Michael Coon
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319025127_Local_Immigration_Enforcement_and_Arrests_of_the

Hispanic Population

CarolStern_HB1222_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: CAROL STERN

Position: FWA

March 25, 2025

Carol Stern
4550 North Park Avenue Apt. T106
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

**Testimony in Support of HB1222 with Amendments
HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

TO: Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Carol Stern

I am testifying in favor of HB1222 with amendments as a resident of Montgomery County's District 16 and a member of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Synagogue.

My sacred text and tradition teach us to welcome the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Leviticus 19:34 explicitly instructs us to treat the immigrant in our land the same as native citizens. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan wrote "teach us to respect the integrity of every human soul be it that of a friend or stranger, child or adult." When we are working to reform our immigration justice system, we must demand that it operates in accordance with these deeply held Jewish beliefs.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **I 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. **I 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 respectfully urge a favorable report for HB1222 with amendments.

CASA_FWA_HB1222.pdf

Uploaded by: Cathryn Jackson

Position: FWA



Testimony in SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT of HB1222
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 27, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

CASA supports House Bill 1222, with amendment. CASA is a national organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class: Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities.

With a membership of over 173,000 members, CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. For nearly forty years, CASA has employed grassroots community organizing to bring our communities closer together and fight for justice, while simultaneously providing vital services to communities across the state and beyond.

The 287(g) program, which deputizes local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws, is not only ineffective but actively harmful to Maryland communities. Despite being misleadingly framed as a public safety measure by federal immigration officials, 287(g) agreements have consistently resulted in racial profiling, eroded trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities, diverted local resources from critical law enforcement functions, and exposed counties to costly legal liabilities.

CASA members have experienced the harm of 287(g) firsthand. CASA represented a member who was illegally racially profiled by officers in Frederick County for the “crime” of eating a sandwich outside her workplace. Even though Frederick's program is ostensibly limited to jailhouse enforcement, the officers detained her to question her about her immigration status. Over the next decade, she was forced to fight to remain in the United States with her family, including her U.S. citizen children, for no reason other than the fact that those law enforcement officers deputized themselves as immigration enforcement agents.

1. 287(g) Agreements Are a Betrayal of Maryland’s Values

Maryland has a long-standing commitment to protecting immigrant communities, keeping families together, and rejecting policies that promote fear and division. The 287(g) program is

inconsistent with these values. It perpetuates racial profiling, erodes trust in law enforcement, and advances the aggressive anti-immigrant agenda led by the Trump administration.

We have already taken decisive action in Maryland to sever ties with ICE. In 2021, we passed the Dignity Not Detention Act, ending Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs), which allowed local jails to detain immigrants on ICE's behalf. This legislation was passed in response to growing concerns about ICE's inhumane treatment of detained immigrants, the lack of oversight in detention facilities, and the devastating impact of family separation. The Dignity Not Detention Act reflected our state's recognition that private detention contracts and ICE partnerships do not enhance public safety but instead sow fear and distrust in immigrant communities. Ending 287(g) is a logical next step—it aligns with the same principles and the broader debate that led to this legislative victory.

2. 287(g) Undermines Public Safety and Erodes Trust

When law enforcement officers are seen as extensions of ICE, it creates deep and lasting distrust between immigrant communities and the police. This breakdown in trust discourages Black and brown immigrants from reporting crimes, seeking help, and cooperating with law enforcement—making communities less safe for everyone.

Latinos are 44% less likely to contact the police if they are victims of a crime due to fear that officers will question their immigration status or that of their loved ones.¹ This fear is only exacerbated in jurisdictions with programs like 287(g), where local law enforcement is electively taking on the job of ICE instead of focusing on their core mission to protect the people of their jurisdiction.

As immigration enforcement intensifies, fewer immigrant women seek protection from domestic violence by petitioning for legal status under the Violence Against Women Act.² When victims are too afraid to come forward, abusers remain unchecked, and communities suffer the consequences.

Studies have shown that 'Hispanic' residents reported lower levels of trust in the police after 287g implementation.³ Research indicates that this decline in trust is not limited to law enforcement but extends to other government agencies and service providers funded by the government. When entire communities are afraid to engage with public institutions, access to essential services declines, creating instability and further marginalization.

Under the current federal administration, immigrants feel particularly vulnerable and hesitant to access services for which they are eligible, even including things like health care for their U.S.

¹ <https://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/03/287gJurisdictions-report.pdf>

² https://conference.iza.org/conference_files/JuniorSenior_2019/arenas-arroyo_e24280.pdf

³ <https://ninercommons.charlotte.edu/islandora/object/etd%3A168>

citizen children. We hear from our members that they are afraid to go to medical appointments or to take their children to school. This fear is only heightened and validated when every police car they pass on the road is acting as an extension of federal immigration enforcement. During this time we should be focused on ensuring that people feel safe, not threatened.

When communities cannot trust law enforcement, public safety deteriorates. Survivors of domestic violence suffer in silence, and those who need help the most are left without support. Maryland cannot afford to maintain a program that erodes trust, endangers immigrant families, and undermines the work of local law enforcement. Ending 287(g) is not just a matter of immigration policy—it is a matter of public safety, racial justice, and human dignity. Maryland must stand firm in its commitment to protecting all residents and fostering trust between communities and law enforcement.

3. 287(g) Wastes Taxpayer Dollars and Drains Local Resources

Contrary to the stated goal of enhancing public safety, 287(g) agreements actually make communities less safe. These agreements divert resources from local law enforcement priorities and create fear among immigrant families, making it harder for police to build trust and effectively protect all residents.

Effective policing relies on strong relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. When residents fear that any interaction with the police could lead to deportation, they are far less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or cooperate in investigations. As described above, programs like 287(g) create widespread distrust, making it significantly more difficult for immigrant families to work with law enforcement and undermining public safety for everyone.

Beyond damaging trust, 287(g) agreements force localities to divert critical resources toward immigration enforcement instead of focusing on pressing community needs. Local governments spend staff time and taxpayer dollars on tasks such as investigating immigration status, responding to ICE inquiries, collecting data for ICE, and notifying the agency about inmates' release schedules. These agreements shift law enforcement priorities away from addressing violent crime and public safety concerns, instead using local police as federal immigration agents. Our community's tax dollars should not be wasted on carrying out ICE's agenda at the expense of real public safety initiatives.

Law enforcement leaders across the country have voiced their concerns about local police involvement in immigration enforcement. The Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)—which represents the largest law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and Canada—has warned against entangling local law enforcement in federal immigration matters. The Police Foundation found that due to Congress's failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform, states and localities

have been forced to take immigration enforcement into their own hands—diverting attention and resources from protecting communities against more serious threats⁴.

287(g) agreements are a failed policy. They do not improve public safety, they do not build trust, and they do not make communities stronger. Instead, they weaken law enforcement’s ability to do its job, waste taxpayer dollars, and make immigrant families live in fear. Ending 287(g) is a necessary step toward ensuring that Maryland’s law enforcement agencies are focused on keeping all residents safe—not acting as immigration enforcers for a federal agency.

4. 287(g) is Racially Biased and Opens the Door to Civil Rights Violations

There is overwhelming evidence that this program has been used to unfairly criminalize immigrants based on their appearance, language, and perceived nationality. By giving local law enforcement the power to enforce federal immigration laws, 287(g) widens the door to racial discrimination, eroding civil rights and public trust.

ICE’s influence in the criminal legal system actively undermines efforts to reduce biased policing. When local law enforcement officers are granted immigration enforcement powers, racial profiling becomes an incentive rather than an aberration. Police officers who know that an arrest can lead to immigration detention are more likely to stop or detain individuals who "look" or "sound" foreign, reinforcing systemic biases and making communities less safe.

Frederick County offers a stark example of how 287(g) fuels racial profiling right here in Maryland. A 2017 study found that the program led to a significantly higher number of arrests of Hispanic residents by the Sheriff’s Office than would have occurred otherwise.⁵ The case of *Medrano v. Jenkins*⁶ further exposed the discriminatory nature of 287(g). In 2018, Latina Frederick resident Sara Medrano was unlawfully stopped by two sheriff’s deputies while driving with her daughter and grandchildren. The deputies questioned her about her immigration status and attempted to detain her for ICE in clear violation of the Fourth Amendment. Medrano later discovered that her supposed “broken tail light” was fully functional—proving that she had been stopped simply for being Latina. The case was settled, awarding her damages and forcing Sheriff Jenkins to issue a written apology.

The Frederick County Sheriff’s Office has a documented history of harassing members of the RISE Coalition, unlawfully questioning Latinx residents— including U.S. citizens—on suspected immigration violations. Sheriff Jenkins himself has publicly expressed anti-immigrant rhetoric, going as far as calling DACA recipients “hardcore gangbangers.”

⁴ <https://immigrationimpact.com/2009/05/21/police-foundation-immigration-report-287g/>

⁵ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/233150241700500305>

⁶ <https://www.aclu-md.org/en/cases/medrano-v-jenkins>

The same racial biases that lead to the over-policing of Black communities are mirrored in 287(g) enforcement. Black immigrants are disproportionately arrested, charged, and incarcerated in the United States due to systemic racial biases in policing and sentencing. This overrepresentation in the criminal legal system significantly increases their likelihood of being targeted for deportation under 287(g). Although Black immigrants make up only 7.2% of the non-citizen population, they account for 20.3% of those deported on criminal grounds—an alarming disparity that exposes the racist nature of the program.⁷

Amendment - Strip the Mandatory Notification and Transfer Provisions

CASA is deeply concerned about the provisions in this bill that mandate notification and transfer to ICE for individuals convicted of certain offenses. Regardless of conviction status or the severity of the crime, **we strongly oppose any new, state-mandated forms of collaboration with ICE.** Local jurisdictions already have the discretion to work with ICE if they choose, and at the level that they choose. Ending 287(g) agreements does not limit that existing authority—it simply removes the requirement for local police to act as federal immigration agents.

This language undermines the very goal of the legislation: rebuilding trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement. While ending 287(g) agreements takes a critical step toward that trust, imposing mandates for notification and transfer does exactly the opposite.

We are particularly alarmed by the inclusion of DUIs—a category that is broad and commonly charged. Making DUIs a trigger for mandatory ICE notification would drastically widen the net of local-federal collaboration while doing little to meaningfully advance public safety.

Additionally, embedding this mandate within Criminal Procedure § 5-104— as proposed in the House bill—represents a significant and harmful overreach. It not only overrides the careful work done by the General Assembly in 2021 through the passage of Dignity Not Detention, but also expands the scope of enforcement from correctional settings to patrol-level officers. In practice, this means that officers conducting routine traffic stops would be expected to interpret complex NCIC data to determine immigration consequences. This creates significant risk for unlawful detention and opens law enforcement agencies to serious liability. It effectively transforms Maryland officers into de facto ICE agents, mirroring 287(g) agreements in all but name.

Our recommendation: Strip the mandatory notification and transfer provisions from the bill entirely. Focus this legislation solely on its original intent—ending and prohibiting 287(g)

⁷ <https://baji.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/sobi-fullreport-jan22.pdf>

agreements—without introducing new pathways for entangling local law enforcement with federal immigration enforcement.

For all of the reasons above, CASA urges a favorable report, with amendments on HB1222.

Contact: Cathryn Ann Paul Jackson, cpaul@wearecasa.org, 301-807-0788

HB1222_Cindy Brach_FAV_WA.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecile Brach

Position: FWA

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,

Below you will find my favorable with amendment testimony in support of HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

I am proud to live in a diverse Maryland community. I write to you because I believe in due process and do not want our neighbors to live in fear that a traffic stop will land them in an ICE detention center.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

State and local funds are a scarce resource, and I do not want to see them spent doing ICE's job for it. Restaurants in my neighborhood are suffering because immigrant populations, whether documented or not, fear going out. The 287(g) is bad for the economy as well as the mental health of community members. I know naturalized U.S. citizens who have suffered from severe anxiety as the result on the ongoing assault on immigrants.

I support a clean bill that removes the amendments added to the bill in the Judiciary Committee that require notification and transfer to ICE. This legislation aims to end 287(g) agreements in Maryland, not to create or mandate new forms of collaboration with ICE. Ending 287(g) agreements does not limit existing authority local jurisdictions have to engage with ICE if they choose. I strongly support a clean bill that aligns with the original intention of the legislation - to terminate 287(g) agreements in Maryland. **Please provide a favorable report with amendments on HB1222.**

HB1222_Maryland_Values_Act_MLC_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FWA



TESTIMONY FOR HB1222 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Williams

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1222 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are steadfast in their resistance to the involvement of Maryland state and local law enforcement agents in federal immigration enforcement activities. The bill seeks to ensure that state and local resources are not used to enforce federal immigration laws, thereby protecting the rights and safety of all residents, regardless of their immigration status. Additionally, the bill prohibits the state, local governments, county sheriffs, and their agents from entering into immigration enforcement agreements with federal authorities while mandating the termination of any existing agreements by July 1, 2025.

By limiting the involvement of state and local law enforcement in federal immigration enforcement, the bill aims to build trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, encouraging cooperation and reporting of crimes. This can lead to safer communities overall. Furthermore, the bill ensures that state and local resources are focused on public safety priorities rather than federal immigration enforcement, promoting a more efficient and just use of resources.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and other legislation that treats law-abiding immigrants with the fairness all Marylanders deserve. We believe that by prioritizing the well-being and rights of every resident, we can foster a more inclusive and secure community for everyone.

Amendment Recommendation: We urge the removal of Sections 9-309(A), 9-309(B) and 5-104(5). These provisions mandate detention and transfer, which courts and the Maryland Attorney General have flagged as likely unconstitutional, exposing local governments to potential liability. Holding individuals past their scheduled release for civil immigration matters violates individuals' constitutional rights, making it unlawful. In addition to being unlawful, delayed release and transfer result in wasted state resources. Maryland must uphold due process and disentangle immigration enforcement from the criminal justice system." The Maryland Legislative Coalition wholeheartedly supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.

HB1222 testimony JPC.pdf

Uploaded by: Charlene Belsom Zellmer

Position: FWA

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,

Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer, Interfaith Minister, offers a favorable with amendment testimony in support of HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act).

In my long established ministry for immigrant justice, it has become clear to me the threat level that 287g imposes on our entire community: children afraid to go to school for fear their parent will have been profiled and picked up by ICE, parents afraid to go to work because of the local law enforcement posing as federal agents, extraordinary skepticism that has developed as a consequence of distrust in local law enforcement.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

In my real time work in ministry, I uphold the values of dignity, respect, and love for all. 287g undermines those values and creates a morally corrupt civil society. I accompanied a woman from Frederick County who was detained by local police detailed as ICE as she ate her lunch. Her and her family's trauma should not be for any of our Maryland families. And there are, sadly, many stories like hers

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we 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, Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer, MDiv, urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Corso Testimony 3-25.pdf

Uploaded by: Chiara Corso

Position: FWA

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,

I am offering a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

I am the daughter of an immigrant parent. I know firsthand about the grit and determination it takes to come to this country to forge a better future for your family and the people around you. I am a member of the Germantown-Homewood Community, a proud Annapolitan, and Marylander. To call this place home, it's of the utmost importance to me that we are using taxpayer funds to support and uplift our neighbors and communities - instead of wasting precious time and resources to support an agenda that rips apart families. Immigrants pay nearly \$100B in taxes and Social Security every year. Immigrants play a vital role in our economy, culture, and communities. We will be more successful as a community and as a state if we are using resources to facilitate public safety instead of terrorizing our neighbors and friends. Everyone benefits when we prioritize public trust over fear-driven political agendas.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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.

Thank you,

Chiara Corso

23 N Linden Ave, Annapolis MD, 21401

chiaraecorso@gmail.com

914-522-2725

HB1222 - Maryland Values Act crossover.pdf

Uploaded by: Daryl Yoder

Position: FWA

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 44A. **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,
Daryl Yoder
309 Glenmore Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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](#)

hb 1222 letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Dawn Hawes

Position: FWA



Testimony on HB 1222 - Favorable with Amendments

HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 25, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

St. Timothy Catholic Church offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)** .

Our congregation is a diverse population of Anglo, Black and Hispanic parishioners from many countries of origin and we all find common cause in worshipping together. We obey Jesus Christ's command to "love one another" and we serve our neighbors regardless of ethnicity or social status.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

We have seen first-hand how a community from vastly different backgrounds can find common ground and learn to work together to benefit the entire group.

We have suffered along side our undocumented brothers and sisters as they live in fear of a traffic stop because of a non-working taillight turning into a catastrophic arrest of the primary breadwinner in the family. We have witnessed the subsequent descent into poverty for the rest of the family as their support system is dismantled by the deportation of their parent. As a church, we have supported these families in their distress.

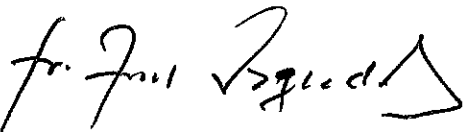
We have seen the unfairness of hard-working, tax-paying non-citizens who will never reap the benefits of Social Security but nonetheless pay into the system in an attempt to obey the law, but now live in fear that the IRS will share their data with ICE and they will be deported as criminals.

The 287(g) program encourages law enforcement to step away from serving the community and turns them into tools for an agenda of punitive rhetoric and grandstanding by a national movement to 'cleanse' the country of anyone who is not white. This is not who we are!

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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.

St. Timothy Catholic Church urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Juan Vazquez-Rubio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized initial "J" and "R".

Rev. Juan Vazquez-Rubio, Pastor

Eileen Benecke Written Testimony HB 1222 FWA .pdf

Uploaded by: Eileen Benecke

Position: FWA

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,

I, Eileen Benecke, a resident of Frederick County, Maryland, offer a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that **neither our state nor some counties** should be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. **Nor should they be risking exposure to lawsuits for violations of constitutional rights and all associated costs and time defending them on behalf of local sheriffs as is the case in Frederick County.** Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g) **in all forms (i.e. jail enforcement model and warrant service officer model).**

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **I 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. **I 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.

Thank you.

Eileen Benecke, Frederick County, Maryland

Testimony on HB 1222_Senate JPR Committee_03_25_25

Uploaded by: Eric Lopez

Position: FWA



Formerly known as CAIR Coalition

1 North Charles Street
Suite 2305 | Baltimore, MD 21201

www.amicacenter.org

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,

The Amica Center for Immigrant Rights (Amica Center) offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

The Amica Center is a non-profit organization that provides pro bono legal defense services to community members detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Maryland and the DMV area. Our organization has specialized in detained removal defense for the past 25 years and are leaders in creating systemic changes in the immigration system for the benefit of vulnerable non-citizen community members.

Our organization has extensive experience defending community members who have been detained by ICE due to local 287g programs in Maryland. This pipeline to ICE detention and deportation is harmful to immigrant and mixed status families, to our communities and to our State. Civil detention is becoming almost indistinguishable from criminal detention, where people are subjected to cruel conditions and trauma. But one critical distinction is that unlike the criminal system, there is no guarantee of appointed legal defense for those who cannot afford private counsel in the immigration system. Most people are forced to navigate this system alone without legal representation against highly trained and hostile government attorneys.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

ICE is already aggressively targeting Maryland immigrant communities as it is. Our local law enforcement should not support ICE in their goal of detaining at a minimum 75 people per day in Maryland. ICE is using their extensive resources to detained anyone they suspect is without lawful status, regardless if the person is one of their targets – meaning that they have prior immigration or criminal history. What does this look like in practice? It looks like drivers being pulled over and questioned about their immigration status based on racial profiling and biases. It looks like ICE breaking car windows and forcibly removing drivers from their cars when drivers invoke their right to remain silent, saying that their own policy allows for this practice.¹

Once ICE takes community members to the Baltimore ICE Field Office, they subject them to cruel and inhumane conditions. People are held there for many days and forced to sleep on concrete floors in overcrowded rooms in the same clothes they were arrested with. ICE provides no access to showers and only one public toilet per room with 20 people. There is no consistent access to food and people have been denied medications for diabetes and HIV. We have heard of at least one instance where ICE deprived a person of food as punishment. These practices are in violation of ICE's own rules and detention standards.²

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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**

¹ <https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/maryland-counties-face-possible-federal-litigation-as-ice-ramps-up-enforcement-under-trump>

² <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/ice-detention-courthouse-holding-room/?nc=1>

Amica

Center for Immigrant Rights

Formerly known as CAIR Coalition

1 North Charles Street
Suite 2305 | Baltimore, MD 21201

www.amicacenter.org

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.

The Amica Center urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222, removing all language that requires notification and transfer to ICE.

Sincerely,

Eric Lopez
Deputy Program Director
Amica Center for Immigrant Rights
1 N. Charles St., Suite 2305
Baltimore, MD 21201

HB1222 - Maryland Values Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Palmisano

Position: FWA

Dear **Members of the Judiciary 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 12A. **I am testifying in support of HB1222 — the Maryland Values Act.**



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. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing \$8 billion in federal and \$4 billion in state taxes, providing \$2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power. 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,

Erica Palmisano

5580 Vantage Point Rd, Apt 5, Columbia, MD 21044

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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](#)

Progressive Maryland_FWA_HB1222.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FWA



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,

Progressive Maryland offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**. Progressive Maryland is a member based organization led by and focused on working class, Black, and brown communities. Our grassroots advocacy focuses include racial justice and economic justice with the aim of building a more just and equitable Maryland. We have over 125,000 members and supporters across the state, with significant bases in Baltimore City, Prince George's, Montgomery, Frederick, Harford counties, and the Eastern Shore.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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.

Progressive Maryland **urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222**.

Solidaridad Action Committee_FWA_HB1222.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FWA

Solidaridad Action Committee

Of the Gamma Alpha Chapter of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporada

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,

The Solidaridad Action Committee (SAC) of the Gamma Alpha Chapter (GA) of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporada (SIA) offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**. SAC is composed of sisters of SIA, a Latina based but not Latina exclusive sorority with a large membership base throughout the state of Maryland. Our committee and organization represents many women including undergraduates currently studying at the University Maryland, College Park, Towson University, Johns Hopkins University, McDaniel College and alumni who are educators, faith leaders, and medical professionals.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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.

The Solidaridad Action Committee of SIA's GA **urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222**.

HB1222_ MD Values Act_FAV_PFM.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Erinn Camp Mansour

Position: FWA

Patapsco Friends Meeting (Quakers)
SUPPORT: [HB1222](#) *Maryland Values Act*
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
February 27, 2025

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is a community of faith based on an experience of a transforming power named many ways: the Inner Light, the Spirit of Christ, the Guide, the Living God, the Divine Presence. Quakers (or Friends) hold as the basis of this faith the belief that God endows each human being with a measure of the Divine Spirit. The gift of God's presence and the light of God's truth have been available to all people in all ages. Quaker beliefs are based on a Judeo-Christian heritage and adherence to the Inner Light, the Divine Seed, and that of God in everyone. Quakerism is, essentially, a religious fellowship based on common religious ideals and experiences, and it is without a binding creed. Quakers express this way of life in many ways, some traditional and some which reject traditional expression.

Quaker experience of the Divine affects what we do in our personal lives, what we believe and how we work for changes in the wider world. "Testimonies" are what Quakers call the ways we have found to live and act based on our beliefs. As Friends seek truth, peace, and harmony in the Light of that Spirit, our testimonies emerge. Each person must prayerfully seek individual guidance and must follow the Light found within.

The immanence of God implies that all persons are children of the Divine and brothers and sisters of one another. Each one has the capacity to discern spiritual truth and to hold direct communion with God. We also wish to affirm our belief that Quakerism is God's "big tent," politically. We welcome people with all sorts of political beliefs—Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, liberals, socialists, Libertarians, and Independents—to the Religious Society of Friends.

George Fox, a founding Quaker, encouraged Friends: "Let your lives speak." In every generation Quakers have devoted their lives to important social issues. The immigration enforcement crises that we are facing today challenge Friends as individuals and as communities to take decisive actions to protect f/Friends, Quakers and non-Quakers, immigrants and vulnerable people, no exceptions. Friends realize that they can do only a small part of what is needed, so they are working through individuals and other organizations to continue to put into action the testimonies of truth, integrity, equality, peace, community, and simplicity. These beliefs lead us to the importance of state-level advocacy in Maryland to support passing the Maryland Values Act, and other immigrant protections, during the 2025 General Assembly.

Law enforcement agreements that use local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration law are discriminatory and a misuse of community resources. This bill terminates and prevents such 287(g) agreements that allow local police to act as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, often without adequate training or oversight. In addition, such agreements can divert local police resources from addressing more pressing public safety concerns. Such agreements erode public trust and can result in civil rights violations, including racial profiling and targeting of individuals based on appearance rather than suspected criminal activity.

The spiritual and social testimonies of Quakers, and statements of our Friends, lead us to support this proposed emergency legislation, HB1222 the Maryland Values Act, to protect our immigrant friends, our brothers and sisters in God's big tent.

Your Friends,
Eileen and Richard Stanzione, Co-Clerks
Patapsco Friends Meeting

HB1222_MD Values Act_QV_FAV.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Erinn Camp Mansour

Position: FWA

Bill Title: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act) - HB1222
Position: SUPPORT (FAV)
To: Judiciary Committee
Date: February 27, 2025

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Erinn Camp Mansour with Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM), a faith-based advocacy group that advocates for policies that are just, compassionate, equitable, and respectful of the inherent worth of every person and the Earth upon which we live. Quakers across Maryland shared with us their concern for immigrant protections. QVM sees HB1222 as an urgent priority in response to the ongoing use of 287(g) agreements by some jurisdictions to deputize local police in order to implement federal mass deportation policies.

Law enforcement agreements that use local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration law are discriminatory and a misuse of community resources. This bill terminates and prevents such 287(g) agreements that allow local police to act as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, often without adequate training or oversight. In addition, they can divert local police resources from addressing more pressing public safety concerns. Such agreements erode public trust and can result in civil rights violations, including racial profiling and targeting of individuals based on appearance rather than suspected criminal activity.

The Quaker experience of the Divine affects what we do in our personal lives, what we believe and how we work for changes in the wider world. “Testimonies” are what Quakers call the ways we have found to live and act based on our beliefs. We embrace the knowledge that all persons are children of the Divine and brothers and sisters of one another. **Our spiritual and social testimonies, including those of peace, community, integrity, and equality, lead us to submit this testimony for HB1222.**

Local law enforcement collaboration with ICE can be harmful to communities, detrimental to public safety, and violate civil rights. Underreporting crime is more common in communities where there are local collaborations with ICE for higher immigration enforcement. Crime data does not support the position that removing undocumented immigrants has any significant impact on crime, most of those deported are for non-violent minor offenses. The deportation system is racist. Black and Brown immigrants are most often targeted for deportation. Communities are safer and stronger when neighbors and local law enforcement rely on and trust each other. Peace is lost and communities are broken when these relationships fail. Distorted immigration enforcement priorities lead to unequal treatment that undermines effective local law enforcement efforts to combat crime.

Please uphold the integrity and effectiveness of local law enforcement by issuing a FAVORABLE report for HB1222. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Erinn Camp Mansour

Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland

Organization email: quakervoicemd@gmail.com

HB 1222 - 287g - JPR - ACLU Testimony (March 27, 2

Uploaded by: Frank Patinella

Position: FWA



**Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 27, 2025**

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

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

FRANK PATINELLA
SENIOR POLICY ADVOCATE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANDREW FREEMAN
GENERAL COUNSEL

The ACLU of Maryland supports HB 1222, which seeks to prohibit state or local entities from entering into a contractual agreement with federal immigration enforcement under the 287(g) program and terminate existing agreements. As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, we are asking the committee to remove the amendments adopted by the House Judiciary Committee that require local law enforcement agencies to notify and transfer people to Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The purpose of HB 1222 is to end 287(g) agreements in Maryland, not 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 believe this legislation is both necessary and urgent. Evidence shows that participation in 287(g) programs encourage racial profiling, disproportionately impacts Black and Latine people, historically targets individuals with little to no criminal history and creates a climate of fear that harms the relationship between law enforcement and local communities. Given that state and local resources are limited, they should be dedicated to strategies that have been proven to improve public safety and not on approaches that have a long history of racial profiling and violating people's rights.

287(g) agreements have resulted in widespread constitutional violations and racially disparate treatment of residents.

Recent studies and investigations document how the 287(g) program fosters unconstitutional practices.¹ Since 2012, street enforcement models were phased out and all current 287(g) programs in Maryland are exclusively jail based. However, data shows that the jail based model incentivizes racially disparate pretextual stops in order to funnel Black and Latine residents into the deportation

¹ American Immigration Council. (2025) *The 287(g) Program: An Overview*. (Fact Sheet)
<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/287g-program-immigration#:~:text=Researchers%20have%20found%20that%20287,Latino%20and%20Black%20community%20residents.>

pipeline. In Maricopa County, Arizona, for instance, the Department of Justice found that local law enforcement routinely conducted sweeps in Latine communities and that Latine drivers were up to nine times more likely to be stopped than other drivers.² This led to the termination of the 287(g) program in Maricopa County in 2011.

The experience in Frederick County, Maryland, further illustrates the problem. In a notable case, deputies unlawfully stopped Sara Medrano in 2018 while she was driving with her daughter and two grandchildren. The officer lied about why he pulled her over (a broken taillight that was working just fine), proceeded to interrogate her about her immigration status, and detained her illegally, making her believe she would be separated permanently from her family.³ In *Medrano vs Jenkins*, the court ruled in favor of Ms. Medrano, which resulted in a \$25,000 award in damages, and a formal apology from Sheriff Jenkins for the misconduct of his officers.⁴

Although she was eventually released, this is just one of many examples of abusive police practices that terrify communities, and make residents view law enforcement as a threat, rather than protection. Maryland's law enforcement agencies must serve all individuals equally and without discrimination. We also must ensure that public safety decisions are made and resources are spent to advance the interests of *Maryland's communities* first, not the federal government's anti-immigrant politics.

The Values Act will improve public safety by ending 287(g) programs, which waste local resources and erode public trust.

In addition to widespread constitutional violations, studies have found that 287(g) programs make communities less safe.⁵ 287(g) makes certain residents afraid of reporting crime, whether as witnesses or as victims, and they are less likely to cooperate in police investigations. A 2017 study makes clear: "Research has shown that immigrants may be less likely to report victimization to the police in the

² Letter from Thomas E. Perez, Asst. U.S. Attorney General, to Bill Montgomery, Maricopa County Attorney, Re: United States' Investigation of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, December 15, 2011, http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/documents/mcso_findletter_12-15-11.pdf.

⁴ *Medrano vs. Jenkins*. (2021). Settlement Agreement and Release. https://www.aclu-md.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/final_settlement_agreement_and_release_signatures.pdf

⁵ Police and Immigration: How Chiefs Are Leading their Communities through the Challenges. (2010). Police Executive Research Forum.

https://www.immigrationresearch.org/system/files/police_and_immigration_-_how_chiefs_are_leading_their_communities_through_the_challenges_2010.pdf

United States for a variety of reasons: language barriers, fear of the police, and fear of deportation.”⁶

In Maryland, neither Montgomery County nor Prince George’s County have entered into 287(g) agreements, despite each having a higher immigrant population than Frederick County. Unsurprisingly, both counties have achieved more significant reductions in crime rates in recent years than Frederick County has under Sheriff Jenkins and his oversight of the 287(g) program.⁷

Proponents of 287(g) programs claim that it reduces crime by prioritizing those offenders who present the greatest risk to public safety. However, data shows unequivocally that historically it disproportionately impacts those with low level offenses. This is a result both of increased racial profiling as mentioned above, and of the fact that 287(g) programs are based in County jails where a vast majority of those booked are for lower-level offenses, serving sentences of less than a year. According to the Frederick County 2012 Annual Report, 88 percent of civil immigration detainees issued by ICE were for misdemeanors — and 60% for minor traffic violations.⁸

It is clear that the 287(g) program fosters unconstitutional and racist policing practices, and erodes community trust and public safety. And Maryland must uphold due process and disentangle immigration enforcement from the criminal justice system. For the foregoing reasons, the ACLU of Maryland urges for a favorable report on HB 1222 with the aforementioned amendments.

⁶ Gutierrez, C. M., & Kirk, D. S. (2017). *Silence speaks: The relationship between immigration and the underreporting of crime*. *Crime & Delinquency*, 63(8), 926–950. and <https://oxfordre.com/criminology/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264079.001.0001/acrefore-9780190264079-e-93>.

⁷ Seven truths surrounding the 287(g) program. 2020. ACLU of Maryland. <https://www.aclu-md.org/en/news/seven-truths-surrounding-287g-programs>

⁸ *i.d.*

Luminus - HB1222 Testimony - Favorable w Amend.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabriel Moreno

Position: FWA



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March 25, 2025

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**Testimony on HB 1222 - Favorable with Amendments
HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

To: Chair Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Gabriel Maximilian Moreno, Esq.

Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly, my name is Gabriel Maximilian Moreno, Esq. I am the CEO of the Luminus Network headquartered in Columbia, Maryland, District 12, and a resident of District 13. For more than 40 years, Luminus has empowered immigrants by offering legal and social services to meet their goals. Every day, we witness the strength and contributions of immigrants—and the fear and disruption caused when local institutions are used to enforce federal immigration laws.

We offer this **favorable with amendment** testimony on **HB 1222**, also known as the **Maryland Values Act**. At its core, this bill is about affirming our shared values of fairness, dignity, and justice. HB 1222 would terminate 287(g) agreements in Maryland—an essential step toward ensuring our state no longer contributes to a federal deportation agenda that undermines community trust and safety.

287(g) Makes Us All Less Safe by Undermining Public Trust in Law Enforcement

Public safety depends on **trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve**. However, **287(g) agreements break this trust** by creating fear among immigrant residents—both

documented and undocumented—who may hesitate to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek police assistance.

- **A 2010 study by the Police Executive Research Forum** found that when local police enforce immigration laws, **Latino communities are significantly less likely to report crimes** out of fear of deportation.¹
- **The Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)** concluded that without clear separation between local policing and immigration enforcement, the **“hard-won trust, communication, and cooperation from the immigrant community would disappear.”**²
- The **International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)** has stated that when immigrants fear **any contact with police**, they are **less likely to report crimes, even serious ones.**³

This breakdown in trust is not hypothetical. At Luminus, we work with many clients—including survivors of domestic violence and trafficking—who are reluctant to seek protection or justice because of fear that contact with police may lead to detention or deportation. We have heard from children afraid their parents will not come home from work. We have supported women who escaped abuse only to face ICE holds that prolonged their suffering. We have seen teenagers forced to take on adult responsibilities after a parent was detained. These are not isolated incidents—they are the consequences of policies like 287(g) that compromise community safety.

287(g) Primarily Targets Low-Level Offenders, Not Serious Criminals

Despite claims that **287(g) improves public safety**, research shows that the program **overwhelmingly targets individuals arrested for minor infractions rather than serious crimes.**

- **Since 2008, 80% of detainees in Frederick County, Maryland** under 287(g) have been for **Level 3 misdemeanors**, and **60% for traffic violations**, not violent offenses.

¹ Debra A. Hoffmaster, et al., “Police and Immigration: How Chiefs are Leading Their Communities through the Challenges” (Washington, DC: Police Executive Research Forum, 2010), 39, <http://www.immigrationresearch-info.org/report/other/police-and-immigration-how-chiefs-are-leading-their-communities-through-challenges>.

² M.C.C. Immigration Committee, “M.C.C. Immigration Committee Recommendations for Enforcement of Immigration Laws By Local Police Agencies,” Major Cities Chiefs Association, June 2006, 6, <https://images.procon.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/recommendationsforenforcementofimmigrationlawsbylocalpoliceagencies.pdf>.

³ International Association of Chiefs of Police, “Enforcing Immigration Law: The Role of State, Tribal and Local Law Enforcement,” *Police Chief* 72, no. 4 (2005): 5, <http://www.markwynn.com/trafficking/enforcing-immigration-law-the-role-of-state-tribal-and-local-le-2004.pdf>.

- A 2011 Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis found that half of all detainees issued under 287(g) were for misdemeanors and traffic offenses.⁴
- A University of North Carolina study found that 57% of those detained under 287(g) in Gaston County, NC were charged only with traffic violations, confirming that 287(g) is not a tool for targeting serious criminals but instead a broad deportation mechanism.⁵

The data is clear: 287(g) is not a tool for addressing violent crime—it is a broad deportation mechanism that ensnares individuals who pose no threat to public safety. If Maryland truly values public safety, we must adopt community policing strategies that encourage victims and witnesses to come forward, rather than push entire communities into the shadows.

287(g) Encourages Racial Profiling and Discriminatory Policing

Though often described as a jail-based program, 287(g) still enables racial profiling. Local officers frequently use pretextual traffic stops to funnel individuals into the deportation system.

- Sheriffs and police departments have been documented using traffic stops to disproportionately arrest Latino and Black drivers for minor infractions in order to initiate immigration checks.
- A **2011 Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation** into the Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff’s Office found that Latino drivers were **up to nine times more likely** to be stopped than non-Latino drivers under 287(g). The investigation led to the termination of the county’s 287(g) agreement due to civil rights violations.
- Similarly, a **2012 DOJ investigation** into Alamance County, North Carolina found that **Latino drivers were up to ten times more likely to be stopped and often arrested for minor violations** while non-Latino drivers received only citations. This led to DOJ litigation and DHS terminating the county’s 287(g) agreement.⁶

⁴ Randy Capps, Marc R. Rosenblum, Cristina Rodríguez, and Muzaffar Chishti, “Delegation and Divergence: A Study of 287(g) State and Local Immigration Enforcement” (Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, 2011), 13-14, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/delegation-and-divergence-287g-state-and-local-immigration-enforcement>.

⁵ Mai T Nguyen and Hannah Gill, “The 287(g) Program: The Costs and Consequences of Local Immigration Enforcement in North Carolina Communities” (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2010), https://www.academia.edu/31571070/The_Costs_and_Consequences_of_Local_Immigration_Enforcement_in_North_Carolina_Communities_The_287_g_Program_The_Latino_Migration_Project.

⁶ Isaac Groves, “Alamance Sheriff won’t rejoin 287(g), but could still hold ICE detainees,” The Times-News, November 16, 2018, <https://www.thetimesnews.com/news/20181116/alamance-sheriff-wont-rejoin-287g-but-could-still-hold-ice-detainees>.

This well-documented history of racial profiling shows that **287(g) is not just a jail-based program—it encourages discriminatory policing that disproportionately harms Latino and Black communities**. Maryland should not endorse or enable racial profiling under the guise of public safety.

Upholding Maryland's Values Means Ending 287(g)

At its core, HB 1222 is about aligning policy with our values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act ensures our state does not participate in tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or using local and state resources to further a federal deportation agenda.

As part of the **Maryland Immigrant Justice Table** and in partnership with CASA, Luminus **supports a clean bill that removes the amendments added in the House Judiciary Committee requiring notification and transfer to ICE. These additions undermine the very purpose of the legislation.**

Importantly, HB 1222 does **not** remove the discretion of local jurisdictions to cooperate with ICE if they so choose. It simply ends formal 287(g) agreements that make our law enforcement agencies extensions of federal immigration enforcement.

Ending 287(g) is a practical, evidence-based step that will improve public safety, restore trust, and reaffirm Maryland's commitment to justice.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report **with amendments** that restore the bill to its original intent: **to end 287(g) agreements in Maryland once and for all.**

Maryland Values Act (HB 1222) Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Sanchez

Position: FWA



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,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB1222 with amendment, the Maryland Values Act. The Marylanders for Food and Farm Worker Protection Coalition is an alliance of organizations advocating for policies that uphold the health, safety, and dignity of the workers who keep our food system running—many of whom are immigrants and people of color. We urge the Committee to advance a *clean* version of this bill that reflects its original intent: to end 287(g) agreements in Maryland and uphold the core values of fairness, dignity, and justice for all.

At its heart, HB1222 is about affirming who we are as a state. Maryland should not be in the business of tearing families apart or diverting state and local resources to carry out the federal government’s deportation agenda. The 287(g) program undermines community safety and public trust by deputizing local law enforcement as immigration agents. This practice fuels racial profiling and wrongful detentions and creates fear in immigrant communities—fear that makes people less likely to report crimes, seek medical help, or reach out when they need support.

Food and farm workers already face enormous risks on the job—long hours, dangerous conditions, and a lack of workplace protections. Many are also members of immigrant communities who are made even more vulnerable by policies like 287(g) that conflate community protection with immigration enforcement. Ending this program is essential to protecting not only these workers, but the families and communities they are a part of.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, we join CASA and others in calling for the passage of a **clean bill that removes harmful amendments added in the Judiciary Committee—specifically those requiring notification and transfer to ICE**. These amendments directly contradict the purpose of HB1222 and would effectively create new forms of ICE collaboration. The legislation must remain focused on ending 287(g) agreements—nothing more, nothing less.

Local jurisdictions will still retain the discretion to engage with ICE if they choose. HB1222 does not eliminate that existing authority. Rather, it ensures that Maryland is no longer using its own resources to support a program that undermines the very values our state claims to hold.

We urge you to stand with immigrant communities, food and farm workers, and all Marylanders who believe in justice and equality, and provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222

CAN Testimony in support of HB1222 for Senate - Pu

Uploaded by: Jerry Kickenson

Position: FWA



faith. love. liberation.
fe. amor. Liberación.

Testimony in support, with amendment, of House Bill 1222
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

To: Hon. William Smith, Jr., chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Jerry Kickenson, Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network

Date: March 25, 2025

We are writing in **support of House Bill 1222, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act), with amendment**, on behalf of the Congregation Action Network (CAN). The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With congregations and members throughout the capital area, including congregations with hundreds of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

As people of faith committed to justice and compassion for immigrants, we adhere to the sacred texts of most major faiths that call for welcoming the stranger and treating each other with love, dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be treated fairly and have the same protections as all Maryland residents.

HB1222 will prohibit state and local law enforcement from entering into agreements with the federal government to help enforce federal immigration law, and require those jurisdictions currently in such agreements to end them by July 1 of this year. Our state and local law enforcement agencies have no business enforcing federal immigration law - Maryland residents need these public servants spending their time and effort enforcing state and local laws. These agreements also wreck trust of our immigrant communities in our local law enforcement, to the detriment of all Maryland residents.

The bill explicitly directs state and local law enforcement to provide notice to federal immigration authorities of a detainee's release, for pickup by federal immigration agents when requested, if the individual has been convicted of a crime of violence or a series of other crimes. However, as people of faith who believe in the power of redemption, we request the bill be amended to remove most or all of the crimes for which correctional facility staff must hold detainees for pickup by federal immigration authorities. These exceptions are too broad. Further, if a county or jurisdiction wishes to cooperate with ICE and honor to some extent ICE detainers, they will still have that option under this bill as amended to exclude a requirement to do so under certain circumstances. There is no need to complicate this bill by adding a mandate for such cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

The Congregation Action Network respectfully urges you to reach a **favorable with amendment** report for HB1222, that will simply get all Maryland law enforcement out of the business of federal immigration enforcement, and back to their real work of enforcing state and local laws, while aligning Maryland law with our values and commitment to the protection and respect of all Maryland residents.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry Kickenson

Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network
Silver Spring, MD

HB1222 FWA Senate FCG CE.pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater

Position: FWA



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

HB 1222 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

DATE: March 27, 2025
COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
POSITION: Favorable with Amendments
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to pass **HB 1222 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)** without provisions that will burden local governments with immigration enforcement duties.

This legislation aims to address concerns about conflicting federal, state, and local policies regarding immigration enforcement, in part by eliminating the use of local “immigration enforcement agreements” such as the harmful 287(g) program. While immigration enforcement is necessary, these practices can sometimes hurt those who are legal residents and cause trauma to the community. This is particularly prevalent when state and local law enforcement agents enforce federal immigration laws directly.

Frederick County is proud to have a vibrant immigrant community that contributes to making our county diverse and inclusive. It is well known that 287(g) agreements have led to racial profiling and discrimination across the State. When local law enforcement agents enforce federal immigration laws directly, our jurisdictions become less safe due to an erosion of public trust in local police. These practices intimidate our residents and prevent them from trusting and interacting with our law enforcement, even as witnesses or potential victims of crime. We cannot have safe and secure communities if our residents do not feel safe around our local law enforcement.

HB 1222 would not only assist in ensuring local trust in law enforcement, but also in ensuring our local resources are being used in the most efficient way. Immigration enforcement agreements are often an impediment to targeting violent crime as they are focused on individuals at local detention centers at the point of booking. This means that the program primarily impacts offenders of low-level crime and does not prioritize high-level offenders that pose a danger to our community. These agreements are also unfunded and bring unnecessary confusion when conflicting with state and federal laws, resulting in an inefficient use of county resources. The elimination of these agreements will allow for more efficient services and safer communities.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1222. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report with amendments.

Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD

HB 1222_Jo Shifrin_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Jo Shifrin

Position: FWA

Hearing: March 27, 2025

Jo Shifrin
Bethesda, MD 20817

TESTIMONY ON HB 1222 - POSITION: FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Jo Shifrin

OPENING: My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of, with amendments, HB 1222 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act).

As the granddaughter of immigrants, I believe that immigrants are the reason that the United States has always been a strong democracy.

HB 1222 is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

I support a 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.

I 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 shared values.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report, with amendments, on HB 1222.

HB1222 - Maryland Values Act crossover - amendment

Uploaded by: John Ford

Position: FWA

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

529 S East Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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](#)

YPP Testimony on HB-1222 Position_ Favorable with

Uploaded by: Jordy Diaz

Position: FWA



Email: staff@ypforprogress.org

Website: ypforprogress.org

Socials: [@ypforprogress](https://www.instagram.com/ypforprogress)



**Testimony to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
HB-1222: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)
Position: Favorable with Amendment**

March 25, 2025

The Honorable William Smith, Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, Maryland: Room #2, East Miller Senate Office Building,
Annapolis, Maryland, 21401
cc: Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 27, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jordy Diaz, and I am an Organizer with Young People for Progress (YPP), a youth-led civic and social justice organization based in Montgomery County. As the son of Honduran immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), I have seen firsthand how immigration policies can affect families like mine. Our membership includes high school students and young adults, many of whom are directly impacted by immigration policies—either as undocumented individuals or as family members of those at risk. We strongly support HB 1222, the Maryland Values Act, and urge this committee to issue a favorable report with amendments that fully eliminate 287(g) agreements in Maryland.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be complicit in tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting local resources toward a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland must prioritize true public safety—ensuring that law enforcement serves and protects all residents, regardless of immigration status.

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. According to a 2023 report from the American Immigration Council, law enforcement agencies participating in 287(g) disproportionately target Black and Latino immigrants for arrest and detention, often without probable cause.¹ Right here in Maryland, Frederick County's 287(g) agreement has led to multiple lawsuits documenting racial profiling and unconstitutional detentions.² These practices erode trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, making people less likely to engage in their communities, seek help, or cooperate with public officials—ultimately making all communities less safe.

The urgency of HB 1222 is reinforced by the current federal immigration landscape. A January 2025 White House executive order drastically expanded immigration enforcement efforts, leading to the highest number of ICE arrests in a single month since 2017.³ The

¹National Immigration Law Center, "Analysis of Trump Day 1 Executive Orders: Unconstitutional, Illegal, and Cruel," January 21, 2025,

<https://www.nilc.org/articles/analysis-of-trump-day-1-executive-orders-unconstitutional-illegal-and-cruel/>.

²American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland, "Federal Complaint to End Frederick County 287(g) Agreement," September 2021, <https://www.aclu-md.org/en/cases/federal-complaint-end-frederick-county-287g-agreement>.

³The Guardian, "US arrests more immigrants in February 2025 than any month in last seven years," March 13, 2025,

administration's aggressive approach to mass deportations directly threatens Maryland's immigrant families, increasing fear and instability in our communities.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, alongside CASA, we support a clean bill that removes the Judiciary Committee's amendments requiring notification and transfer to ICE. Local jurisdictions already have the discretion to engage with ICE if they choose; ending 287(g) agreements does not remove that authority. However, maintaining these agreements would continue to instill fear and distrust between law enforcement and immigrant communities—preventing people from accessing essential services, reporting crimes, and fully participating in civic life.

For these reasons, Young People for Progress urges the committee to issue a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Sincerely,
Jordy Diaz
Organizer, Young People for Progress

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/13/us-immigration-arrests-february-2025>.



Woodson Testimony in favor of HB1222.pdf

Uploaded by: Karen Woodson

Position: FWA

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,

I, Dr. Karen C. Woodson of the Community Workgroup on English Language Learners, offer a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

As a former public school educator and principal with over 35 years of experience in Maryland, I witnessed firsthand the unique multifaceted needs of our immigrant communities. Working with scores of talented educators, we dedicated ourselves to removing barriers and creating equitable opportunities to ensure that students from immigrant communities thrive academically, just like any other students under our charge. As co-chair of the Beloved Community Committee at Village Baptist Church in Bowie, Maryland, I participated in the Interfaith Day of Action for Immigrant Justice in Annapolis on March 24, 2025. I am steadfast in my commitment to seek justice for all marginalized groups, including immigrant communities, as my faith teaches that we are to seek justice and stand up for vulnerable populations, such as immigrants and their children (Isaiah 1:17).

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

As a former principal, I witnessed the deep trauma experienced by children who lived each day with the fear that a parent might not be home when they returned from school—detained or deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This constant fear created an emotional burden no child should carry, often manifesting in anxiety, withdrawal, difficulty concentrating, and chronic absenteeism. The trauma of family separation reverberates throughout immigrant communities, disrupting stability, trust, and a sense of safety. Many of the parents who faced deportation were brought to this country as infants or young children and have known no other home; they built their lives here, worked hard, and raised U.S.-born children who are now left to navigate the world without their primary caregivers. These children—citizens of this country—suffer deeply

when a parent is torn away. Their emotional well-being, academic performance, and overall development are jeopardized by a system that punishes families for circumstances beyond their control. As educators, we are tasked with creating safe and nurturing learning environments, yet we are helpless in shielding our students from the devastating impacts of these policies. Family separation is not just an immigration issue—it is a child welfare crisis, and our schools and communities are bearing the weight of its consequences.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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, Dr. Karen C. Woodson, **urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.**

HB1222 JPR D4CC fwa.pdf

Uploaded by: Kate Sugarman

Position: FWA



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,

Doctors for Camp Closure Maryland chapter offers a favorable with amendment testimony in support of HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Doctors for Camp Closure is a group who advocates for humane and just treatment for immigrants and is very opposed to ICE detention for our immigrant community.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

We see how ICE detention and ICE raids have a negative impact on the health of our immigrant patients. ICE raids make our patients so fearful that they neglect their health out of fear of deportation. Our mission is to promote good mental and physical health for our patients, while ICE raids have a damaging effect on their health.

I just witnessed 3 young children lose their parents to an ICE raid in Maryland. These children are severely suffering emotionally, physically and financially. 287g has no place in the state of Maryland.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we 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.

Doctors for Camp Closure Maryland urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Kate Sugarman, MD

Doctors for Camp Closure co leader

Potomac MD

Testimony in Support of HB1222 with Ammendments_BI

Uploaded by: Katherine Blaha

Position: FWA

Tuesday, March 25, 2025



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am submitting this testimony as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore, a group of individuals working to mobilize white people in 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, an immigration advocacy and assistance organization based in Maryland. I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am testifying in **support of HB1222 - the Maryland Values Act with amendments.**

The Maryland Values Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in Cecil, Hartford, and Frederick Counties that allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented. These agreements have several proven negative impacts, including increasing ineffective practices like racial profiling, stoking community fear, disrupting and misdirecting local policing priorities, decreasing children's engagement in education, and violating civil rights. These harmful effects often disproportionately impact Latino and Black communities.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County resulted in significant racial profiling and a resulting "chilling effect" in Hispanic communities. Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program." Due to this agreement, local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from targeting violent crime.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target individuals who "posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%." This illustrates that these agreements

are not an appropriate allocation of public resources, and that they are instead an example of racist policy aiming to terrorize Black and Latino communities.

The last Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite urban areas citing costs and negative impacts on community relations. The American Immigration Council cites that ICE already has proven ineffective at following federal policies put in place to attempt to curb these negative effects.

Especially during a state budget crisis in Maryland, this is not policy that we can afford. The federal government is pushing these agreements because they funnel state resources into federal law enforcement and away from state resources. This is not a financial burden state and local governments can bear or should bear, especially given the current budgetary chaos resulting from the withdrawal of federal funding.

Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust and protecting all Marylanders. 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. In 2018, **Maryland's immigrant communities contributed \$8 billion in federal and \$4 billion in state taxes, providing \$2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power.**

Unfortunately, although in its current form half this bill would strengthen protection for our immigrant community, the other half will weaken protections. New amendments added in the House would mandate that law enforcement report individuals convicted of certain crimes to ICE, including any felony, as well as 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. **We strongly urge the removal of these harmful amendments, and that a bill that fully and solely strengthens protections for immigrants be moved forward.**

We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. 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.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Katherine Blaha
5706 Cross Country Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21209
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore

HB1222.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Grasso

Position: FWA

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,

I am writing to offer a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**. I am a resident of District 43A. I am also a special education teacher working in Baltimore City Public Schools. Over the past two months, threats of immigration raids have created a sense of fear and uncertainty in schools where teachers, families, staff members, and students have worked tirelessly to cultivate the safe and welcoming environments that young people need and deserve.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katherine Grasso
2507 N. Howard St., Apt 415
Baltimore, MD 21218

HB 1222-Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Kimberly Hayes

Position: FWA

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,

Kim Hayes, a resident of Frederick, Maryland, offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

I grew up in an agricultural area of the country, where I used to regularly observe farm workers bending over in the fields, from sun-up until sundown, to put produce on our tables. Because of that experience, when I think of immigrants I generally think of hard working, family people who contribute positively to society. That's why I've recently become involved with Rise in Frederick, Maryland, in activism supporting immigrant communities.

I agree with Rise's position that Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g). Despite its professed intent to only address violent criminals, the 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. Recently, I learned of an individual who was detained because of a decade-old, dismissed case against him. He was fortunate; his employer went to great lengths to bring him back to his life in Maryland. Many others like him have no such luck.

I also recently learned that the detention system is extremely costly. When a large percentage of detainees are non-violent and otherwise contributing to society, then the astronomical cost of this program is even more frustrating to me—especially with “DOGE” slashing budgets for programs that actually help people. Neither efficiency nor safety seem to be the motivating factor here. In the case of the 287(g) program, it seems to me to be more about scapegoating, while the basics of what make our country awesome are slipping away.

The 287(g) program diverts local law enforcement from protecting public safety and has them acting as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to seek help when needed.

I 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. **I strongly support a clean bill that aligns with the original intentions of the legislation - to simply terminate 287(g) agreements in Maryland.**

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Senate.HB1222.FWA.LauraAtwood.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Atwood

Position: FWA

Testimony on HB 1222 - Favorable with Amendments
HB 1222 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Hearing date: March 27, 2025

From: Laura Atwood, Silver Spring, MD

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law—by ending 287(g).

I'm a physical therapist and a longtime Maryland resident. I've spent enough time living and observing to appreciate that every person has a deep humanity that we must recognize—and I have also seen consequences of childhood trauma play out for decades and even generations. I am deeply concerned about the family separation and childhood trauma that accompanies so many detentions and deportations.

For too many people, deportation is a death sentence; detention here and/or in the deportation country represents loss of liberty; and anyone deported loses the freedom to spend time with their loved ones in the community that's been their home. There are new revelations of horrific conditions in El Salvador prisons that ICE is deporting people straight to (with no due process); and studies have followed cases of people murdered immediately upon return to the country they had fled.

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

Amendment Recommendation: As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **I 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.

Testimony on HB 1222. Favorable with Amendments.pdf

Uploaded by: Linda Green

Position: FWA

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,

I am a resident of Mount Rainier and member of Doctors for Camp Closure and the American Public Health Association (APHA). I am offering a "favorable with amendment" testimony in support of HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act).

I am familiar with the 287(g) program which is currently in effect in only three Maryland counties. One of them is Frederick County where I have had close friends attend Hood College. They have shared their personal experiences of racist policing and immigrant detention in Frederick County. The APHA has recognized that over-policing has negative health outcomes for communities and in 2018 passed a policy statement, "Addressing Law Enforcement Violence as a Public Health Issue". In 2017 the *Journal of Immigration and Security* published "Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population" by Michael Coon at the University of Tampa under a grant from the Hood College Board of Associates. Taken together these publications demonstrate the dangers to health and safety from current application of the 287(g) program. Further it diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors.

In Mount Rainier I have seen how immigrants distrusted the government even before the present efforts to expand ICE's outreach. Even documented immigrants were hesitant to access rental assistance during COVID-19. A program like 287(g) further erodes trust making residents less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Therefore I support the intent of this bill to end 287(g) programs throughout the state.

However this bill is weakened by amendments in the Judiciary Committee that require notification and transfer to ICE and these amendments should be removed. 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. I strongly support a clean bill that aligns with the original intentions of the legislation - to simply terminate 287(g) agreements in Maryland. I urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Linda D. Green MD

HB1222 - Maryland Values Act crossover.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Lindsay Keipper

Position: FWA

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 **D46 and 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,
Lindsay Keipper
2425 Fleet St.

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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](#)

HB 1222_LW_JPC 0327.25.pdf

Uploaded by: Louise Weissman

Position: FWA

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 Louise Weissman. I'm a resident of Greenbelt, District 22 and I am writing in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**. I ask that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee vote for the bill **favorably with amendment** to the current version of the bill before you today.

I was born and raised in Boston, MA. I am the daughter and granddaughter of Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants who came to the United States from Eastern Europe in the first part of the 20th century. My family members left Poland and Russia as persecution against Jews was rampant and as extended family members already in the U.S. were watching attempts to pass exclusion acts in the United States that would put limit on Jewish migration..

I am not attempting to compare my family's story and experience to those of our current immigrant neighbors. But there is a striking similarity that past and current immigrants have. They share two similar aspirations: a desire to improve the quality of their lives and to ensure a better future for their children.

The Maryland Values Act upholds our nation and our state's values: fairness, dignity, and justice for all. It reinforces a commitment that our state is not in the business of family separation. Maryland must say NO to using its local and state resources to collaborate with ICE to support an agenda of mass deportation. We should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by ending 287(g) in Maryland.

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty, and forces officers to act as immigration agents rather than agents committed to ensuring public safety. The 287g initiative erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities. It makes people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed.

Immigrant safety and protection and measures to create a pathway to citizenship have always been important to me. Before I retired, I worked in organizations led and/or with large immigrant memberships that advance justice for all: SEIU and United We Dream, the nation's largest Dreamers organization. Currently, I live in Greenbelt with an estimated population of 4,000 immigrants. But of equal importance, my involvement in immigrant justice is a reflection of my family's own immigration story. I am the daughter and granddaughter of Eastern European Jews who came to the United States in the early parts of the 20th century. While I do not want to send a message that I am comparing my family's story and experience with those of immigrants today, there are striking aspirations that they share: a desire to improve the quality of their lives and to ensure a better future for their children.

As a member of Jews United for Justice and CASA Ally Network, I **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 the Maryland Values Act must be 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.

I strongly support a clean bill that aligns with the original intentions of the legislation. This is what will bring Maryland closer to our values. Therefore, I urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments to **HB 1222**

HB1222 Follingstad fwa.pdf

Uploaded by: Marianne Follingstad

Position: FWA

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,

I am submitting **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

This bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed, such as in domestic violence cases. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

It was bad enough when three counties in Maryland had 287g programs. In the last month, that has doubled, which spreads the negative consequences to more communities and to those passing through them. And we know that the current federal administration wants to expand 287g programs, which are problematic as is, to include investigation and interrogation, further diverting our law enforcement personnel from their local duties. Under the earlier 287g programs, we've seen a husband and father deported after a flat tire because of a civil immigration violation.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, I 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. I 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 adamantly urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Marianne Follingstad

Rockville, MD

UH Local 7 CASA Support Testimony on HB 1222 final

Uploaded by: Marisha Leiblum

Position: FWA



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,

UNITE HERE Local 7 offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

UNITE HERE Local 7 is a labor union that represents thousands of hotel, gaming, and food service workers throughout Maryland. Our union advocates for good, family-sustaining jobs for hospitality workers.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

Our members are very concerned about their communities, neighbors, and their safety. Yet ICE actions compromise community safety and create fear. Our Union's mission is to help working people – regardless of their immigration status – to find their courage and advocate for better working conditions. The presence of ICE in our communities undermines that mission and creates a chilling effect for our organizing efforts.

Many of our African American members' families migrated from the South to the North of this country – at times in violation of the law –to seek a place to raise their families free from physical assault and forced labor. Our migrant neighbors so too are seeking a safe future for their families. Collaborating with ICE is standing on the wrong side of history.

Further, our members' children attend diverse schools across the state. Many of our members have lived in this country for generations, but their children have friends who have not. Our members do not want to see their children's friends suddenly deported, or avoiding attending school out of fear.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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.

UNITE HERE Local 7 urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

HB1222_PJC_FWA_SENATE.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Hill

Position: FWA



C. Matthew Hill
Public Justice Center
201 North Charles Street, Suite 1200
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
410-625-9409, 229
hillm@publicjustice.org

HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, March 27, 2025
Position: **Favorable With Amendment**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

The Public Justice Center offers favorable with amendment testimony in support of HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act).

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty legal services organization which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. The PJC provides advice and representation to low-income clients, advocates before legislatures and government agencies, and collaborates with community and advocacy organizations; we actively incorporate anti-racism and racial equity goals into our advocacy work. Our organization frequently represents and partners with immigrants and immigrant communities impacted by this legislation. For example, we represent tenants who are often immigrants in eviction cases and cases seeking to hold their landlord accountable for dangerous conditions of disrepair, and we advance equitable access to school by representing students and families. We also represent workers whose employers are paying less than minimum wage, denying overtime benefits, or unfairly classifying them as contractors.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

The Public Justice Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and as such does not endorse or oppose any political party or candidate for elected office.

The PJC frequently represents immigrant-clients who need assistance from local agencies and law enforcement to hold predatory actors accountable. **If local law enforcement and government agencies are likely to cooperate with ICE in any deportation, our immigrant clients will not hold predatory actors accountable – and those bad actors are then emboldened to prey on other community members.** For example, in our representation of immigrant-renters seeking to hold their landlord accountable, our clients will be much less likely to call local code enforcement to hold the landlord accountable for dangerous housing conditions. They will be much less likely to call the police or the sheriff or file a complaint with the District Court Commissioner even when the landlord is illegally evicting them if that interaction could lead to an ICE enforcement action. In our representation of immigrant-workers, our clients will be less like to report an employer who paid them below minimum wage if they think it could result in ICE enforcement actions. Unscrupulous employers and landlords will exploit these fears to prevent workers and tenants from speaking up for their rights.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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.

The Public Justice Center urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Maureen Wambui Testimony in Support with amendment

Uploaded by: Maureen Wambui

Position: FWA

Maureen Wambui

7827 Rolling View Ave, Nottingham, MD, 21236

Maureen.w.m.2030@gmail.com

03/25/2025

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support with amendments of HB1222 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Hearing Date: March 27th, 2025

Chairperson and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is Maureen Wambui, and I am a community advocate and resident of Legislative District 8 in Maryland. I am writing in **strong support of HB1222 but with some amendments**, I have seen firsthand the challenges that immigrants in Maryland face when local and state authorities entangle themselves in federal immigration enforcement. HB1222 is a significant step toward fostering trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement. However, I urge the committee to consider strengthening the bill with key amendments to ensure it fully protects Maryland's diverse residents.

HB1222 rightly seeks to establish clear boundaries between local/state authorities and federal immigration enforcement. It ensures that law enforcement agencies in Maryland do not ask about immigration status and prevents state resources from being used to enforce federal immigration laws. These provisions are essential for ensuring that all Maryland residents feel safe reporting crimes, seeking assistance, and fully participating in their communities without fear of deportation.

Recommended Amendments

While the bill takes crucial steps in the right direction, I strongly recommend the following amendments:

1. End the 287(g) Program in Maryland Entirely

- The bill currently calls for the termination of existing agreements between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities by July 1, 2025. However, it should go further and permanently prohibit future 287(g) agreements in Maryland. These

agreements have disproportionately led to racial profiling, wrongful detentions, and the erosion of trust between immigrant communities and local police.

- Studies have shown that 287(g) agreements do not significantly improve public safety; rather, they divert local law enforcement resources away from addressing serious crimes.

2. Ensure No Prolonged Detention for Civil Immigration Holds

- The bill must explicitly state that no individual should be held beyond their release date for civil immigration purposes. Immigration detainers, which are merely administrative requests, have been ruled unconstitutional when they result in prolonged detention without a judicial warrant.
- Enforcing this measure would prevent unnecessary detentions and avoid costly legal battles for Maryland jurisdictions.

3. Expand Protections for Victims and Witnesses of Crimes

- Many immigrants fear engaging with law enforcement due to the possibility of being questioned about their immigration status. The bill should include specific provisions ensuring that victims and witnesses of crimes will not be subject to inquiries or referrals to federal immigration authorities.
- This measure would encourage crime reporting and enhance public safety for all Maryland residents.

HB1222 is a critical step toward ensuring that Maryland remains a state where all residents can live with dignity and security, regardless of their immigration status. However, for it to achieve its full intent, it is essential to end the harmful 287(g) program permanently, prohibit prolonged immigration-related detention, and strengthen protections for victims and witnesses of crimes.

I urge this committee to support HB1222 with these amendments to create a more inclusive, fair, and safe Maryland for all.

As part of Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we 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. We strongly support a clean bill that aligns with the original intentions of the legislation – to simply terminate 287(g) agreements in Maryland.

Maureen Wambui Testimony in Support with amendment

Uploaded by: Maureen Wambui

Position: FWA

Maureen Wambui

7827 Rolling View Ave, Nottingham, MD, 21236

Maureen.w.m.2030@gmail.com

03/25/2025

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support with amendments of HB1222 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Hearing Date: March 27th, 2025

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Wambui

House Bills for Immigration 5docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Miner Brown

Position: FWA

House Bill #1222

Favorable with Amendments

Title: Maryland Values Act (including HB #1431)

Judiciary Committee: Luke Clippinger, Chair

Testimony submitted by Miner Brown of District 11B

(A CASA Ally, Social Action Advocacy Committee, Chizuk Amuno Congregation, Pikesville, MD)

In the Jewish faith, we believe that we have a moral obligation to provide assistance and support to all strangers as “We were once strangers in the land of Egypt.” **It is no secret that our immigrant neighbors, friends, and service providers are under attack!** When they are under attack we are all under attack.

It is also no secret that immigrant families are indispensable to the economy and tax support to the State of Maryland being 17% of our population with the 4th largest State population per capita in the country. They often must perform various work that others refuse to do. And, they pay taxes and into Social Security without receiving benefits.

The following bills attempt to create laws for all our community members so they can have safe access to basic services and support without fear and reprisal in the wake of the litany of cruel Presidential Executive Orders targeting immigrants:

1. **Maryland Values Act (HB1222)**- This legislation ends harmful 287(g) agreements held by several counties that allow local police (usually county sheriffs) to act as ICE agents.
2. **Maryland Data Privacy Act (HB1431)**- This bill will stop ICE from accessing state and local data of immigrant Marylanders without warrant.

With President Trump’s litany of Executive Orders signed on January 20, 2025, several draconian actions such as removing immigrant protections, arranging to deputize County sheriffs as ICE agents in some locations, freezing new immigrants from coming into the country, initiated forced deportations leading to the break-up of immigrant and immigrant/American-citizen families, and rescinded a policy that protected certain areas- such as schools, houses of worship, and hospital from immigrant enforcement humanely established by President Biden. **Critical for the safety of immigrant families, these inhumane actions are just wrong to assist in any way, the Federal government from taking such actions.**

One last note of the lack of empathy and care for the wellbeing of others shown by The President. On January 20th, by another executive order signed by Trump, he suspended the entry program and canceled incoming travel arrangements for about 10,000 approved refugees. Separately, the administration ordered outside resettlement agencies receiving federal funds to stop providing services to refugees who are now here. Currently, there are now families living in Maryland having no idea if or when they will ever see their relatives again who are legally waiting to come here to be reunited with their families.

Time is of the essences in approving this legislation to protect our neighbors. **Thank you for your support in trying to bringing some sanity and peace back to our State through the passage of these Bills.**

Miner L. (Moe) Brown (District 11B)

Testimony on HB 1222.pdf

Uploaded by: Paul Holmes

Position: FWA

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.**

HB1222 - Maryland Values Act crossover.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Shillenn

Position: FWA

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 45. I am a white woman, and have many police officers in my family. 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,

Rebecca Shillenn

5401 Elsrode Avenue, Baltimore MD 21214

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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](#)

HB1222 crossover FWA - Immigration Enforcement - S

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FWA

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bill_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
03/27/2025
Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

**TESTIMONY ON HB#1222 - POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support with some amendments of HB1222, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

A core Jewish value for me is the commandment to care for the stranger which is mentioned more times than *any* other commandment in the Torah — more even than the command to love God (*v'ahavta*). According to the Talmud, Rabbi Eliezer the Great noted that "the Torah warns 36 times, and some say 46 times, not to oppress the stranger" (Babylonian Talmud, *Bava M'tzia* 59b). The decree is articulated in a number of ways: "You shall not wrong nor oppress the stranger, for you were strangers in the Land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:20). "The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens... for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34).¹

For over a decade, federal policy limited Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities. But, as of January 20, 2025, the revocation of these immigrant protections has left immigrant communities vulnerable to enforcement actions in ways that threaten their safety where they should feel safe. Frederick County is facing an increased level of fear in our immigrant community due to the presence of the 287(g) program proudly promoted by our sheriff. That same sheriff and his department have been sued and lost multiple cases for their overzealous policing of our county's immigrant population.

This revised Federal policy shift has already created an environment of fear and uncertainty, discouraging individuals from seeking medical care, pursuing education, accessing legal resources, or engaging with law enforcement. As a result, our communities, public health, and overall safety are at risk.

As a member of multiple organizations supporting our immigrant communities regardless of their documentation status, this is an issue of concern to me and those organizations. Among the organizations I work with are Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), the ACLU, SURJ Baltimore, and the RISE Coalition of Western Maryland.

¹ [https://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study/torah-commentary/commandment-love-and-help-stranger#:~:text=The%20decree%20is%20articulated%20in,%22%20\(Leviticus19%3A34\).](https://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study/torah-commentary/commandment-love-and-help-stranger#:~:text=The%20decree%20is%20articulated%20in,%22%20(Leviticus19%3A34).)

These violations of the dignity and humanity of our immigrants goes against my faith and my personal commitment to those values.

I stand with immigrant communities and support this vitally needed bill, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.
4. **[Relieve some fears of] DACA recipients [who] are increasingly feeling more uncertainty** as the fate of the immigration program protecting them from deportation continues to be [challenged in court](#) — at a time when President Donald Trump is pushing his administration to carry out “[the largest deportation program in American history](#).”² The government might pursue the deportation of DACA recipients through misuse of the database containing their information and attempt to take them into custody in locations formerly off limits to that ICE intervention.

This bill passed the House with amendments, including one that must be removed before your committee and the Senate passes it. The vote for passage was 98-38 on 03/17/25.

I 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. **I 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 respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1222.

² <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/daca-recipients-trump-deportation-crackdown-dreamers-immigration-rcna191667>

JPR_HB 1222_FWA_ElizabethChung.pdf

Uploaded by: Sebastian Brown

Position: FWA

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,

I am Elizabeth Chung of 5924 White Flint Dr., Frederick MD 21702 offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

I have been an immigrant from Hong Kong, China since 1970 and my professional background has been in public health for the last 5 decades. Throughout my career, I served the immigrant communities extensively and have witnessed the adverse impact of the ICE enforcement for the immigrant families impacted by this program. I am very proud being a naturalized citizen of the United States and I felt public safety is of utmost importance to us. At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

Amendment Recommendation: As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we 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.

In community,

Elizabeth Chung

JPR_HB 1222_FWA_Roz.pdf

Uploaded by: Sebastian Brown

Position: FWA

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,

I, Roslyn Zinner, a member of the Immigration Team of Howard County Indivisible, offer a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

6 years ago my husband and I sponsored a Honduran family who were at the border without a sponsor. They lived with us for 3 years, then moved to their own place. The mom has been working for the school system as a teacher's aid and her 11 year old son is excelling in school. They are looking to buy a home. Other family members have since come to live here. They are vulnerable. This family is not a group of nameless immigrants, they are our family. 287(g) programs say "You are not welcome here." As a consequence, they are reluctant to access healthcare resources and, when relevant, report crimes.

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we 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, Roslyn Zinner, **urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.**

JPR_HB1222_FWA_Heidi Gaultney.pdf

Uploaded by: Sebastian Brown

Position: FWA

Heidi Gaultney
123 Black Oak Drive, Elkton, MD 21921

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,

I offer a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

I live in Cecil County and I urge the State legislature to formally reject 287(g) agreements on a statewide basis. Reasons for this are simple. It is unnecessary as there are other laws on the books that ensure that whenever someone is booked in a local jail, even a misdemeanor, the fingerprint data is automatically entered into the FBI database that ICE reviews. The 287g agreement has been shown to lead to racial profiling which is illegal but is a well documented sequela of 287g.

There have been lawsuits in Frederick County that cost the county significant taxpayer money that occurred because of the racial profiling conducted by the 287g trained officers. Most importantly, counties with 287g agreements have been shown to be less safe than their counterparts without these agreements. This is because the agreements have a chilling effect on residents reporting other crimes. The crimes that go unreported could be against anyone, undocumented or documented immigrants or non-immigrants.

This lack of trust in the local police is detrimental to public safety. Domestic violence increases when people are afraid to report it to local police. Women are especially vulnerable but anyone can be a victim of this. Fear of encountering police at a traffic stop can lead an otherwise law-abiding person to try to outrun the police which can lead to utterly unnecessary injuries or even deaths. This is not what we want in Maryland or anywhere else in the US.

I know of some examples recently of ICE overstepping their legal bounds. ICE agents went to a house with the names of two individuals, when those in that house denied them entry as was their right, ICE went next door to a business. The business allowed them in and they then picked up two people in the business. This behavior and the threat of this type of behavior has meant that a majority if not all businesses that cater to immigrants have noticed a significant drop in patronage. This is causing severe financial strains on their businesses.

One such business is owned by a native born American but she is having to put her savings into the business to pay the costs of running the business. This is a problem caused by the Trump

administration. It is bad economics to fight against hard-working tax-paying businesses. None of this is making anyone safer. Similarly, the 287g policies that primarily target those with low level offenses who do not pose public safety threats, are creating problems and solving none.

Amendment Recommendation: As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we 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 HB1222.

JPR_HB1222_FWA_IngridL.pdf

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Position: FWA

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,

I, Ingrid L. Diaz Lopez, offer a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**.

My commitment to keeping families together and protecting immigrants' rights is deeply personal and driven by both my experiences and my work. I currently work at an organization that provides essential resources for families, where I have met many individuals who immigrated to the U.S. in search of a better life. I was once one of those individuals, so I understand firsthand the challenges of starting over in a new country—learning a new language, adapting to a different culture, and, unfortunately, facing discrimination simply because of my background. At the core of my beliefs is the conviction that all people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. We are all human, and no one should be judged or mistreated based on their ethnicity or immigration status. It is disheartening to see how prejudice and misinformation lead to unfair treatment of immigrants, creating unnecessary fear and division. Additionally, I have seen how this environment of hostility affects children, many of whom experience heightened anxiety due to concerns about their families being separated. No child should have to live with that fear. That is why I am committed to advocating for policies and initiatives that protect immigrant families and promote a society built on inclusion, compassion, and equal opportunity for all.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

I have recently noticed a rise in hostility within the community, where individuals make harmful assumptions about Hispanic people, unfairly associating them with criminal activity solely based on their appearance. While I am certain that racism has always existed, it seems to

have intensified following the recent change in presidency. More people now feel emboldened to openly express their prejudices, looking down on the immigrant community as if such behavior is acceptable. As a U.S. citizen, I have personally experienced the impact of this racial profiling. I often notice people looking at me as if I do not belong, as if I am automatically a criminal. The prevalence of racial profiling is deeply troubling, and no one should have the right to treat others with such disrespect or instill anxiety and fear in them. It is heartbreaking to witness the amount of hatred that exists, much of which stems from ignorance and a lack of understanding. While it is true that criminals exist in every community, it is unfair and unjust to generalize an entire group based on the actions of a few. Many immigrants come to this country seeking a better life for their families, working tirelessly to provide necessities such as food, shelter, and education. Their contributions and sacrifices deserve respect, not unwarranted suspicion or discrimination. It is crucial that we take the time to educate ourselves, challenge harmful stereotypes, and foster a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Amendment Recommendation: As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we 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.

Ingrid Díaz Lopez,

Salisbury, MD

JPR_HB1222_FWA_JaneT.pdf

Uploaded by: Sebastian Brown

Position: FWA

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,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to HB1222. **I urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.**

The 287g program needs to be ended for many reasons. I live in Frederick County and am ashamed that my County Sheriff participates in the 287g program which is a waste of valuable policing time and resources, destroys trust in the police, creates an unsafe and unwelcoming environment for our neighbors, and ignores the realities of immigrant lives and contributions to our communities.

- Wasteful use of time, money, and resources: While Frederick County Sheriff's officers are busy receiving marginal training on immigration, planning and executing arrests and raids, and wasting detention center resources and time on the added layer of processing immigration status, this total time and resources are unavailable to the community safety policing that should be happening.
- Destruction of trust that results in unreported threats: The Frederick immigrant community has expressed trust in the Frederick City police force which does not participate in 287g. The Frederick City police chief publicly states his appreciation and support for Frederick's immigrant community and has said that his force will not request immigrant status because building trust with the community is the most important foundation for successful policing. As a result, the community feels safe calling the City police and reporting threats, creating policing based on responding to and managing real threats rather than planned raids widely targeting people based on their color.
- Creating an unsafe and unwelcoming environment for our neighbors: Frederick immigrants know they can be pulled over at any time for any reason, as was Sara Medrano in 2018. Walking to work, dropping children off at school bus stops, shopping, enjoying an afternoon outside all become unsafe, frightening activities with the backdrop of being stopped with the explicit threat of detention and deportation. Imagine the life of immigrant children now...unsure if their parents will be there to pick them up at the bus stop or if they will have been detained under 287g.
- The reality of immigrants in the community: The immigration process is long and broken. Immigrants often spend decades going through the steps of the process paying lawyers each year to get to citizenship. During this time, our neighbors are working, running businesses, employing people, contributing to schools and volunteer organizations, and paying taxes. This community does not deserve to be unjustly targeted by poorly trained officers siphoning resources from the real policing work that would keep all of us – including the immigrant community - safe.

Amendment Recommendation: As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we 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.

Jane Tamagna
Middletown, MD

JPR_HB1222_FWA_Mary Ann.pdf

Uploaded by: Sebastian Brown

Position: FWA

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,

Today I ask for your favorable vote with amendments for the Maryland Values Act.

I have lived in Frederick County for many years. I regret to say we are one of Maryland Counties with a 287 g agreement, one whose Sheriff has spent years declaring his partnership with ICE has kept us safe from an invasion of criminals from Central America. His harsh rhetoric earned him Fox News title the Joe Arpaio of the East, the Arizona Sheriff who under the agreement made unlawful attacks on immigrants. Frederick County's Sheriff signed the 287 g agreement in 2008. By 2016 there were only a handful of agreements across the county –32 of over 3000 agencies.

Deportations under 287 g largely disproved the argument that the County was under an alarming threat of serious crime from Hispanic residents. In fact Frederick County Sheriff's Office statistics show since 2008 80 % of detainees placed on arrestees in the jail were for minor level 3 offenses or misdemeanors and 60% were for traffic violations

And it is apparent that the 287 g agreement resulted from significant distrust of Hispanic residents. A 2017 study of county traffic arrests showed Hispanic residents experienced more arrests than would have been expected without the agreement . Further a 2019 Madrano ruling and the earlier De Santis ruling against the Sheriff's department for unlawful detentions of immigrants support the claims of bias expressed by residents. These facts and actions show that 287 g agreements have significant costs and one of these is a mistrust of law enforcement amongst many Hispanics both those with and without legal status.

Here we are now under a massive costly national campaign to deport millions of undocumented immigrants all across the country. The offensive has begun. It was reported Monday at a public meeting in Frederick that since Tuesday until tomorrow federal ICE agents in unmarked cars without uniforms are conducting field operations in Washington and Frederick Counties. The size of this Deportation Operation will require resources beyond the billion just requested from Congress. Thus the 287 g agreements

can be expected to expand . They were initially set up to include putting local officers on the street to make stops and arrests as ICE agents. Because of the widespread abuses by local officers this program was shelved in 2012. Just think what this will mean for public safety on our streets –both its effect and costs when sheriffs and police chiefs can under 287 g become on the street enforcers. Note that they have the authority to enter into 287 agreements: They do not have to have the agreement of the government entity for which they serve.

I urge Judiciary to pass this bill with amendments. We are experiencing a time when the federal government has moved to impose enormous costs on tax payers and on states and local governments for its deportation policies. Heretofore immigration law enforcement has been a federal not a local responsibility and this norm is under threat.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Ford

3702 Buckeystown Pike

Buckeystown MD 21717

Frederick Maryland

JPR_HB1222_FWA_UPROOTED CHESAPEAKE.pdf

Uploaded by: Sebastian Brown

Position: FWA

UPROOTED CHESAPEAKE

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,

UProoted Chesapeake offers a favorable with amendment testimony in support of HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

UProoted Chesapeake is a Community Organization based in Harford County, Maryland. Our main goal is to empower military connected and English learner students by creating inclusive events and cultural educational opportunities. Although we are a relatively new organization, we've made significant strides in connecting with the Immigrant community by partnering with local organizations. Through these collaborations, we've been able to provide services in their native language, helping families overcome language barriers. This has enabled them to better integrate into the community and access valuable resources that were previously out of reach.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

Our families deserve to feel protected, they deserve to feel safe; how will that be possible if they are constantly in fear. When local police officers are given the authority to enforce federal immigration laws, it can deter immigrants from participating in community events, educational programs, or other activities that could enhance their integration into society. This can especially harm school-age children in immigrant families, who may miss out on vital educational opportunities or feel unsafe in their own schools.

Amendment Recommendation: As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we 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.

UProoted Chesapeake urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Mel Fraqueri Santiago,

Harford County

HB1222 - Maryland Values Act crossover.pdf

Uploaded by: Spencer Baldacci

Position: FWA

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 Maryland Legislative District 40. **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,

Spencer Baldacci

1201 W Mount Royal Ave, Unit 258

Baltimore, MD 21217

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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](#)

3.27.25 HB1222 OPD Fav with Amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Wolf

Position: FWA



NATASHA DARTIGUE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

KEITH LOTRIDGE
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

HANNIBAL KEMERER
CHIEF OF STAFF

ELIZABETH HILLIARD
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

BILL: HB1222 – Maryland Values Act

FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender

POSITION: Favorable with amendment

DATE: March 27, 2025

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Committee issue a favorable report on HB1222, with an important amendment.

287(g) Agreements Are Contrary to Maryland Values

287(g) agreements undermine due process and make innocence irrelevant, by *requiring* local law enforcement officials to screen, interrogate, detain without judicial authorization, and transfer into ICE custody for deportation, any arrested person suspected to be deportable under civil immigration law.¹ 287(g) agreements contain no exception for someone arrested based on mistaken identity, even if that person’s case has been dismissed or they are found not guilty of the crime. There is no exception for a person arrested for a minor traffic offense like driving without a license, or for the victim of a false citizen complaint, or for a houseless person accused of trespass while seeking shelter from the elements, or any of the other innumerable scenarios in which a person might be arrested despite being innocent or posing no real risk to public safety.

287(g) is an extremely ineffective tool for targeting people with serious convictions; but it is a powerful tool for funneling innocent people and those with very low level offenses into the deportation pipeline. This is because 287(g) agreements only assist ICE in arresting

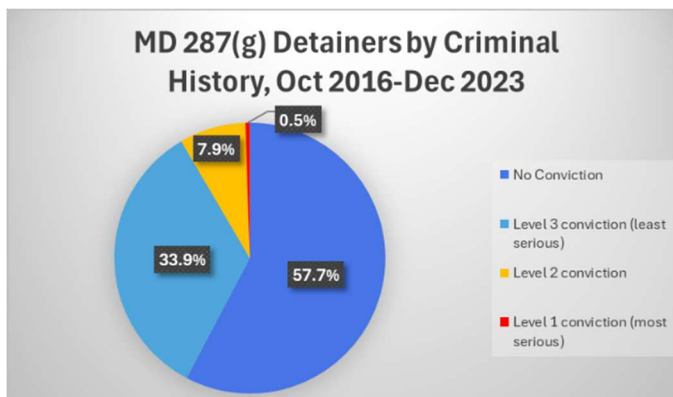
¹ The group of people that ICE deems ‘deportable’ is expanding, and it is not limited to those who entered the United States without permission. Well over half a million people who had been living in the United States with authorization, many of whom applied for and received permission to enter in advance, will become deportable over the next few weeks, as DHS has announced the termination of parole and Temporary Protected Status for certain groups. See <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-revokes-legal-status-530000-cubans-haitians-nicaraguans-venezuelans-2025-03-21/>; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/02/venezuela-tps-immigration-trump-noem/>.

people being released from a local detention center. People being released from a local detention centers are *not* the people who have been convicted of serious crimes that might constitute a risk to public safety—most of those people are released from the Department of Corrections (“DOC”) after serving prison sentences, and DOC is already very consistent about transferring people to ICE custody upon their release.²

Far from being risks to public safety, the people being released from local detention centers—and therefore the people who are being arrested by ICE via 287(g) cooperation—have generally either:

- 1) been found not guilty;
- 2) had their charges dismissed or placed on the stet docket;
- 3) been released by a judicial officer while awaiting their day in court, based on the judge or commissioner’s determination that the release conditions can reasonably ensure their appearance in court and public safety³; or
- 4) completed a short local sentence for a less serious offense.

The data bears this out, both in Maryland and nationwide. From October of 2016–December of 2023, only *four* of the 771 287(g) detainees in Maryland were for defendants with the most serious “Level 1” convictions.⁴ The majority, 445, were for people with no conviction at all, and the overwhelming majority—706 out of 771, or 92%--were for people with either



See n. 4 for data source

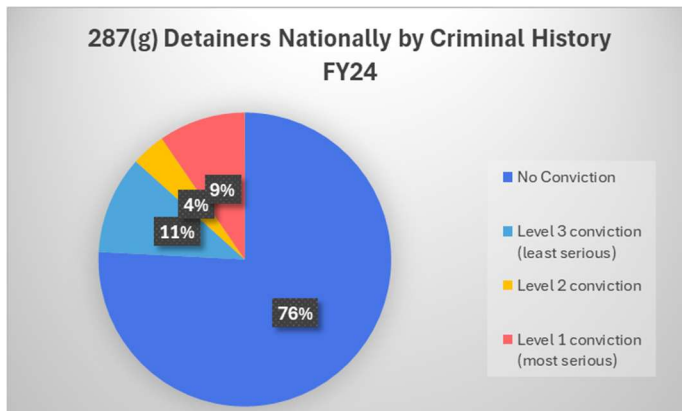
² ICE Baltimore Field Office Director Elliston confirmed as much in his testimony on SB387 on February 4, 2025, when he said “the state penal system works with us very well, and we work hand in hand as much as we can and I really appreciate the work that Maryland has done.” Available at https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Committees/Media/false?cmte=jpr&ys=2025RS&clip=JPR_2_4_2025_meeting_1&billNumber=sb0387, at 4:21:55.

³ See Md. Rule 4-216.

⁴ This and all other data referenced here is drawn from the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detainers Tool, available at <https://tracreports.org/phptools/immigration/newdetain/>. Additional information on the source of the data is available here: https://tracreports.org/phptools/immigration/newdetain/about_data.html. These numbers were obtained by filtering by State: Maryland; Apprehension Method: 287(g) Program; and Seriousness Level of MSCC (Most Serious Criminal Conviction).

no conviction or only the least serious “Level 3” conviction, which includes traffic offenses and other minor misdemeanors.⁵

Nationally, over the same seven year period, less than two percent of detainees issued under 287(g) programs were for people convicted of “Level 1” offenses, and 82% were issued for those



See n. 6 for data source

with either no criminal conviction or only a minor “Level 3” conviction, as illustrated in Figure 2.⁶ (The slightly higher nationwide percentage of 287(g) detainees for those convicted of more serious crimes is likely due to the fact that some state prison systems, which house those convicted of more serious offenses, do have 287(g) agreements.)

The majority of these minimally culpable individuals are *not* people that ICE would be likely to individually target for arrest on the basis of their criminal history. They become attractive targets for arrest in the context of a 287(g) program, which makes their arrest easy for ICE at local expense. Under a Jail Enforcement Model, local officials identify and investigate the subject’s immigration status, generate the administrative detainer and warrant paperwork, perhaps generate a Notice to Appear in removal proceedings, and offer ICE a convenient 48 hour window within which to take custody. By making these individuals into such low-hanging fruit, 287(g) agreements encourage ICE to arrest minimally culpable Marylanders whom it otherwise would not specifically seek out.

ICE has many other tools that it can and does use to target those with more serious convictions. The four 287(g) detainees lodged for individuals with “Level 1” convictions over seven years represent only 0.5 percent of the total detainees for defendants with “Level 1” convictions in Maryland over that period.⁷ 287(g) is therefore not even a significant part, much less a necessary part, of ICE’s enforcement against those with serious convictions. Instead, it is a convenient way for ICE to make arrests of those who have been convicted of no crime or of only a

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*, filtered by State: All; Apprehension Method: 287(g) Program; and Seriousness Level of MSCC (Most Serious Criminal Conviction).

⁷ *Id.*, filtered by State: Maryland; Seriousness Level of MSCC (Most Serious Criminal Conviction): Level 1 Crime; Apprehension Method.

low-level offense, allowing ICE to stretch its considerable resources even farther by outsourcing legwork to local law enforcement agencies.

ICE has a budget of nearly \$10 billion.⁸ Where local law enforcement agencies are not obligated by a 287(g) agreement to subsidize ICE by expending time and resources interrogating arrestees, investigating their immigration status, and generating administrative warrants, detainers, and other paperwork on behalf of the federal government, ICE can and should simply do that work itself. ICE's "Criminal Alien Program" ("CAP"), among other resources, works to identify and place ICE detainers on foreign nationals in jails and prisons—the same functions outsourced to local officials under the 287(g) program. This system is effective, as illustrated by the fact that deportable people in DOC, which does not have a 287(g) agreement, are still consistently identified transferred to ICE custody upon completion of their criminal sentence.

287(g) agreements hand the reins of local law enforcement over to ICE and the federal government, replacing Maryland's priorities—and values—with national politics.

There is no question that ICE's current marching orders are to step up its use of all available tools, including 287(g), to detain and remove as many people as possible, even those who are innocent and/or pose no risk to public safety. While 287(g) programs have always given ICE the ability to detain the innocent and the lowest level offenders, ICE has in the past exercised at least some degree of forbearance, sometimes declining to arrest those who were not removal priorities. This has likely limited the damage done by 287(g) programs. However, the guidance instructing ICE to prioritize removal of those who it deemed to be, under the totality of the circumstances, a risk to public safety, national security, or border security, was repealed by Executive Order on January 20,⁹ and ICE is reportedly being pressed to meet arrest quotas or goals, which can only incentivize more indiscriminate enforcement.¹⁰

ICE's intent to arrest anyone it can, without regard for innocence, is apparent in what happened in Prince George's County on February 19, 2025, when ICE agents looking for a particular target pulled over the wrong person, and, *after* determining that they had stopped the

⁸ See <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48115>, Table 2.

⁹ See Exec. Order No. 14159, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (January 20, 2025), "Protecting the American People from Invasion."

¹⁰ Nick Miroff and Maria Sacchetti, "Trump officials issue quotas to ICE officers to ramp up arrests," Washington Post (Jan. 26, 2025), available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/01/26/ice-arrests-raids-trump-quota/>.

wrong man, demanded information about his immigration status, broke his car window, and dragged him through it to detain him on suspicion of a civil immigration violation.¹¹ As FOD Elliston told Fox45, “the handcuffs are off. Before, it was you had to meet certain criteria to be arrested. Now [. . .] if you’re illegally here and we come across you, you’re going to get arrested.”¹²

287(g) agreements ensure that every encounter with a local correctional officer is an encounter with ICE, and ICE has announced its intention to begin arresting anyone it comes across who is deportable, regardless of their circumstances. In light of these changes, we must expect that going forward, 287(g) agreements will be used even *more* aggressively to put those with little or no culpability into the deportation pipeline.

The enforcement of civil immigration law is a federal responsibility, and ICE can and will continue to conduct enforcement in accordance with the priorities of the presidential administration. **The Maryland legal system, however, should not lend its own personnel, resources, and reputation to the type of indiscriminate immigration enforcement that will separate families and terrify communities with little benefit to public safety.** For the same reasons that it is important to protect courthouses to the extent possible from becoming associated with the risk of an ICE arrest, it is important to ensure that local law enforcement does not become indistinguishable from ICE in the eyes of the community. 287(g) agreements create not only the perception, but the reality, that any interaction with law enforcement is as dangerous as an interaction with ICE, even if one’s name is ultimately cleared through the state courts. This can only erode public trust in law enforcement and the courts, and ultimately undermine public safety.

Requiring Notice and Transfer to ICE Custody for Certain Defendants is Unnecessary

In its current form, this bill would require all jurisdictions to notify ICE in advance of a person’s release, if they have been convicted of certain enumerated crimes, and facilitate the person’s transfer to ICE custody. The bill should be amended to omit this mandatory notification and transfer provision, rather than unnecessarily attempting the difficult task of determining in advance when notification and transfer to ICE custody are warranted. This complicated exercise is unnecessary, because eliminating 287(g) does nothing to prohibit the notifications and transfers that

¹¹ See “Maryland counties face possible federal litigation as ICE ramps up enforcement under Trump,” Mikenzie Frost, Fox45 News, Feb. 19, 2025, <https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/maryland-counties-face-possible-federal-litigation-as-ice-ramps-up-enforcement-under-trump>.

¹² *Id.*

the bill seeks to mandate—jurisdictions without 287(g) remain free to notify ICE and facilitate transfers under any circumstances that they deem appropriate, even beyond those mentioned in the current version of this bill. The mandatory transfer provisions are also not necessary to ensure that serious offenders end up in ICE custody after their prison sentences, because those offenders are already consistently transferred from DOC, as discussed above.

Mandating transfer based on this very broad array of misdemeanor and felony convictions will hinder local officials' ability to adjust their policies in response to new information. For example, if a county observes over time that rising fear of immigration enforcement is decreasing the willingness of immigrant communities to engage with law enforcement, to the detriment of public safety, it might reasonably wish to take steps to distance itself from ICE in order to reestablish public trust. However, the county's ability to do so would be hamstrung by the mandatory transfer provisions of this bill, which would continue to require local law enforcement and jails to facilitate the transfer of any person that ICE wishes to arrest who has, e.g., been convicted of a DUI.

This committee should prohibit 287(g) agreements, which subsidize ICE and assist it in boosting apprehension numbers with easy arrests of Marylanders who have little or no culpability, without attempting to regulate a jurisdiction's ordinary, voluntary notification and transfer practices.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue a favorable report with amendment on HB1222.

**Submitted by: Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division.
Authored by: Stephanie Wolf, Director of Immigration Services,
stephanie.wolf@maryland.gov.**

Written Testimony for Bill HB1222 03.25.2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Taj Smith

Position: FWA



March 25, 2025

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Annapolis, MD

Subject: Testimony on HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act) - Favorable with Amendments

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Taj Smith. I am the President of the Washington County NAACP. I am writing to provide testimony supporting HB 1222, the Maryland Values Act, with amendments. This act embodies the principles of fairness, dignity, and justice for all individuals, regardless of their immigration status.

The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be involved in tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources towards a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland must reaffirm its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by ending the 287(g) agreements.

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety by forcing them into the role of immigration agents. This shift in focus not only erodes trust within our communities, particularly among immigrant populations, but also makes individuals less likely to report crimes or seek assistance when they need it most. Ending 287(g) would ensure that Maryland's resources are utilized to foster public safety rather than support federal deportation efforts.

The NAACP's stance on immigration reform is rooted in humanitarian values and the imperative to treat all individuals with respect and dignity. We believe that immigration policies should not solely focus on enforcement but must consider our nation's and its people's needs. We oppose local, state, and federal laws that exploit citizens' fears and xenophobia, leading to racial profiling or the denial of basic rights. We are strongly against laws that empower local law enforcement to conduct federal immigration enforcement and arrest individuals solely based on their suspected immigration status.

ICE actions in our communities compromise safety and instill fear among residents. The interference of ICE in Washington County undermines the mission of the NAACP, as it creates an environment where individuals feel unsafe and are less likely to access essential resources and support services. Our county's recent initiation of a 287(g) agreement is particularly concerning, given the diversity of our immigrant populations, who significantly contribute to the fabric of our rural county. Our local police systems are already overburdened, and a focus on immigration enforcement detracts from community policing efforts.

The Washington County NAACP urges the committee to recognize that maintaining the 287(g) agreements will do more harm than good, particularly in a community that already harbors distrust toward law enforcement. As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, alongside CASA, we support a clean bill that eliminates the amendments added in the judiciary committee that mandate notification and transfer to ICE. The sole purpose of HB 1222 is to end 287(g) agreements in Maryland, not to create or mandate new forms of collaboration with ICE. Local jurisdictions retain discretion to engage with ICE if they choose; ending 287(g) agreements does not limit that existing authority.

In conclusion, the Washington County NAACP respectfully urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Taj Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Taj Smith, President
Washington County NAACP Branch 7030B
PO BOX 2451
Hagerstown, MD 21742
240-347-2639

HB1222 - Maryland Values Act crossover.pdf

Uploaded by: Theresa M. Hoffman

Position: FWA

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 43b. **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,
Theresa M. Hoffman
803 Seaward Rd., Towson, MD 21286
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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](#)

HB 1222 - Values Act - FAV_AMEND.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: UM SWASC

Position: FWA

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT OF HB 1222

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Judiciary Committee

02/27/2025

Social Work Advocates for Social Change strongly supports HB 1222 - with amendments - which will prohibit the State and its local apparatus from entering into federal immigration enforcement agreements except under special circumstances, such as the conviction of certain crimes of violence. The bill will help shore up public safety and trust, prevent racial profiling, and preserve State and local resources.

HB 1222 will ensure that local law enforcement focuses on serious crimes instead of tearing families apart. 287(g) agreements divert local police's attention away from their primary duty of public safety to immigration enforcement. Deputized local agents are trained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enforce immigration law against people who have not committed any criminal offense at all.¹ This abuse of power erodes the relationship and trust between local law enforcement and the communities they are supposed to protect. Fear of family separation and unlawful detention consequently keeps members of immigrant communities from engaging with public services. When immigrant communities feel safe to report serious crimes, cooperate with police, and access public services, our communities are safer and everyone benefits.

The Values Act will work as a guardrail against discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or perceived immigration status. Frederick County has demonstrated the clear danger that 287(g) agreements represent to the State's immigrant communities. These agreements are voluntary partnerships between state and local agents with the federal government, and can stoke existing racial animus in localities where agents pay out of pocket to serve as ICE deputies. Data from the effects of 287(g) implementation in Frederick County through the sheriff's office has shown a higher number of arrests of Hispanics than would have happened without the expanded powers granted to its agents.² More than 80 percent of the county's 287(g) arrests were for low-level offenses and 60 percent were for traffic offenses.³ HB 1222 is an important step toward a refusal of racialized myths of criminality and the expansion of protections for the State's hard-working immigrant communities.

287(g) agreements are established at a cost to the State and local governments. When

¹ Coon, Michael. (2018, August 8). Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population. *Journal on Migration and Human Security*. Vol. 5, no. 3, pp. 645–666. <https://doi.org/10.1177/233150241700500305>.

² Coon, Michael. (2018, August 8). Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population. *Journal on Migration and Human Security*. Vol. 5, no. 3, pp. 645–666. <https://doi.org/10.1177/233150241700500305>.

³ ACLU of Maryland. (2018, April 7). *End the Federal 287(G) Program in Maryland*. Retrieved from www.aclu-md.org/en/campaigns/end-federal-287g-program-maryland.



For more information, please contact
Selome Ejigu
umswasc@gmail.com

local law enforcement cooperates with federal immigration authorities, individuals suspected of immigration violations, often arrested for non-violent offenses, may be held for extended periods while awaiting transfer to ICE custody. Additionally, personnel costs including salaries, benefits, and overtime as well as administrative supplies draw on state and local government resources.⁴ At a time when our state is cutting valuable public services to address a three billion dollar deficit, we cannot afford to take on the fiscal burden of these federal duties at the expense of Marylanders. House Bill 1222 would help prevent these unnecessary expenses by limiting such detentions, and ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used effectively and with thoughtful discretion.

Social Work Advocates for Social Change urges a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222. We 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.

Social Work Advocates for Social Change is a coalition of MSW students at the University of Maryland School of Social Work that seeks to promote equity and justice through public policy, and to engage the communities impacted by public policy in the policymaking process.

⁴American Immigration Council. (2025, January). *The 287(g) Program: An Overview*. Retrieved from https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/the_287g_program_an_overview_2025_0.pdf

Testimony on Maryland Values Act HB 1222 03.25.202

Uploaded by: Viviana Westbrook

Position: FWA

**Viviana Westbrook testimony before the
Maryland House Judiciary Committee, HB 1222,
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement
(Maryland Values Act)
Submitted February 25, 2025
11600 34th Pl
vivianawestbrook@gmail.com
(410) 693-0859
Position: Support with Amendments**

Position

As an immigration attorney who worked for several years in representing immigrants, particularly survivors of gender-based violence, in various organizations, I have seen how counties with 287(g) in Maryland create fear for immigrants to come forward and report crimes. Survivors end up seeing local law enforcement in these counties as an extension of immigration enforcement. Local law enforcement should not enter into 287(g) and other agreements with immigration enforcement that make it easier to put immigrants into the deportation pipeline without due process. Domestic violence survivors can end up in detention, removal proceedings, and with a criminal record that could preclude other relief in the future. If an immigrant is a security risk and priority for ICE, the agency can obtain a signed judicial warrant.

Because of this, I support, with Amendments, HB 1222, the Maryland Values Act.

Issues

- 1) 287(g) and other enhanced cooperation with immigration enforcement results in a chilling effect for victims of crime.
 - a. When local law enforcement agencies have agreements such as 287(g) or easily honor detainer requests without a signed warrant from a judge, immigrants begin to equate local police and sheriffs with immigration enforcement. The [Center for American Progress](#) noted the “pernicious effects that 287(g) programs can have on communities, as local residents lose trust in the very law enforcement agencies that are responsible for maintaining public safety.”
- 2) 287(g) puts immigrant survivors at risk as it deputizes local law enforcement agents to engage in immigration enforcement in their jails.
 - a. Unfortunately, many abusers will take advantage of the victim’s lack of knowledge of U.S. laws. Many immigrant survivors do not speak English and if the abuser does, they have the upper hand and can frame the narrative however they wish. This is how many survivors end up being arrested, especially if they defend themselves and leave any marks on their abuser.
 - b. The abuser will claim the survivor was the assailant and land the survivor in jail. Once there, 287(g) activates and law enforcement learns that the survivor has no lawful immigration status. -This will land them in immigration court or in some cases, summarily deported.
- 3) When such vulnerable victims of crime are not coming forward to report these crimes, our communities are put in danger. This is about public safety.

- 4) 287(g) is leading to many immigrants with charges of misdemeanors to be put into the immigration system.
 - a. Since undocumented immigrants commit fewer crimes than native-born U.S. citizens, most arrests under 287(g) involve very minor offenses that would normally not lead to jail time. Fully 60% of the immigrant arrests in Frederick County involve traffic violations alone.
- 5) Localities spend their own funds on 287(g) agreements.
 - a. While DHS provides the initial training, everything happening after is done at the expense of the local law enforcement agency.
- 6) 287(g) leverages the trust and community knowledge local law enforcement has to terrorize communities in a much more targeted way.
- 7) 287(g) can result in racial profiling.
 - a. Lawsuits were settled in [two racial profiling cases](#) where Frederick County Sheriff's Office broke civil rights laws, interrogating immigrants about their immigration status. The lawsuits ended with financial payouts to the victims and an apology.
 - b. The entire system is set up to target people who "appear" foreign born. County jails receive funds from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to house immigrants facing deportation and fighting it in court. This [incentivizes](#) deputies to make pretextual arrests of people who might fall into that category. In Catholic social teaching, bishops say "the economy must serve the people, not the other way around." Here though, the county is profiting from incarcerating people for minor, civil offenses that should not involve any jail time and then sending deputies out to find more people to put in jail. The immoral cycle of prison-for-profit continues.
- 8) 287(g) contributes to the deportation pipeline.
- 9) 287(g) is a shortcut to get around probable cause. There should be no shortcut to fundamental rights.
- 10) This new administration has started up the [Task Force Model](#) of 287(g) again.
 - a. This program allows "local law enforcement officers to challenge people on immigration status in the course of routine police work."
 - b. Unlike the other models, this extends beyond the jail, allowing police officers to act as immigration enforcement when carrying out their regular duties on the street.

Solutions

- 1) End 287(g).
 - a. At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).
- 2) Do not allow other localities to enter into any such agreements.
 - a. Since we are seeing a return to the Task Force Model, it is an especially terrifying moment where our fellow Marylanders may find themselves separated from their loved ones and the communities they call home.

Amendment Recommendation

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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.

Action

I urge you to vote for HB 1222, with amendments, because:

- 1) The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.
- 2) Because of 287(g), members of the community fear any contact with police, and families are being torn apart. Immigrants do not feel safe contacting the police when they are victims of crime. True community safety requires equal access to justice for everyone to seek help when they need it, regardless of their immigration status. It is about building bridges and acknowledging that our individual well-being depends on the well-being of everyone around us.

I appreciate your consideration and urge a favorable report with amendments for House Bill 1222.

Document 1.pdf

Uploaded by: William Kuethe

Position: FWA

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,

I, William Kuethe a constituent from Glen Burnie, offer a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland’s values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland’s resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

I am a staff member at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, and I want to make sure that sensitive locations are protected such as my church are protected. I also care about schools and medical facilities because I have many family members, friends, and neighbors who work in those sensitive spaces. I believe 287(g) should be ended because it distracts our police officers from their duties and threatens the trust of many communities.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **we 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.

Favorable with Amendments HB1222.pdf

Uploaded by: Zackary Berger

Position: FWA

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,

I am writing to offer **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

I am a primary care physician who supports immigrants as my patients, as part of my community, and necessity to the future of our state. I further oppose the fascist intrusion of the Trumpist government into our state.

This Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

My patients now live in fear that they will be deported. They are good people. There is no reason to deport them apart from furthering a racist, nativist, and authoritarian agenda. Our local law enforcement must not help ICE.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, **I 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. **I 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.**

Zackary Berger MD PhD

HB 1222 Letter of Opposition.pdf

Uploaded by: Adam Streight

Position: UNF

Adam Streight
County Executive

Dan Schneckenburger
Director of Administration



Office: 410.996.8300
Fax: 800.863.0947

County Information
410.658.4041
410.996.5200

CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND
Office of the County Executive
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2100, Elkton, MD 21921

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **Letter of Opposition for House Bill 1222** – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Dear Chair Smith Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

As Cecil County Executive and a retired law enforcement officer, I am writing to express my opposition to HB 1222. The 287(g) program is about keeping members of my community safe. It identifies those wanted by federal immigration detainers who are already in custody for committing crimes and victimizing the citizens of Cecil County, including our migrant community, who these criminals often target because of their vulnerability. This program doesn't target those here to make a better life for themselves – it is limited to those arrested for committing crimes. I am befuddled as to why we would want to protect lawbreakers – no matter their immigration status -when government's number one priority is the protection of our citizens. A recent survey shows 76% of our fellow Marylanders agree with me on this.

Having worked with our federal law enforcement partners as an investigator, I firmly believe that cooperation at all levels of government is essential to a free and ordered society. Cecil Countians have a right to expect to be secure in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods and the General Assembly should not be legislating away our ability to protect ourselves from criminals with a program that has existed since 1996. Furthermore, as County Executive, I am concerned about the potential loss of federal funding if we obstruct our federal partners in their job of removing criminals here illegally.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to look **unfavorably** on HB 1222.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Streight", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Adam Streight
County Executive

2025 HB1222 Testimony Against 2025-03-27.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: UNF

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.

Testimony Against HB1222

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.

Please enter an unfavorable report against HB1222.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, MD 20776
Legislative District 30B
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net
March 27, 2025

Unfavorable written 1222.pdf

Uploaded by: Brian Albert

Position: UNF



Sheriff Brian K. Albert
Washington County
Sheriff's Office
500 Western Maryland Parkway
Hagerstown, MD 21740-5199
www.washcosheriff.com

Patrol Division 240.313.2100
Judicial Division 240.313.2530
Detention Division 240.313.2133

March 25, 2025

Distinguished Members of the Judicial Proceedings committee,

I am writing to oppose HB1222. This bill limits our ability as locally elected Sheriff's to participate in a joint agreement with a federal agency via the 287 g program. The 287G program has been villainized by the media and some in the MD house of delegates. Sherriff's and Chief's across the state currently participate in joint agreements to assist in getting criminals off our streets. Such agreements are made with the DEA, FBI, and ATF, just to name a few. By passing this legislation you will be limiting our ability as Sheriff's and other police executives to cooperate with ICE and remove violent criminals from our communities. By giving an unfavorable report or removing the requirement to end 287g agreements from this bill it will allow Sheriff's and law enforcement leaders to choose if they want to participate in an agreement with ICE and the 287g program. If this bill is passed and I am required to release a known criminal back into my community and they kill or injury a member of the public, the community will not be asking questions of the senators or delegates here in Annapolis the will asking me the local Sheriff," why did that have to happen to my family member. Look no further than Harford county and the Rachel Moran case. Please consider a non-favorable report on this bill today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B K Albert".

Brian K. Albert

Opposition HB1222 Town of Rising Sun

Uploaded by: Chip Peterson Jr.

Position: UNF



TOWN OF RISING SUN
Office of the Mayor
www.RisingSunMD.org

Travis Marion, Mayor
Office: 410.658.5353 Mobile: 410.945.6567
1 East Main Street
P.O. Box 456 Rising Sun · MD, 21911

****March 26, 2025****

The Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Maryland State Senate
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to Bill HB1222, which seeks to end the partnership 287(g) program in Maryland. We believe this bill would have a detrimental effect on public safety, the well-being of local communities, and the integrity of law enforcement efforts.

The 287(g) program allows local law enforcement agencies to collaborate with federal immigration authorities to identify and remove individuals who have committed serious crimes and are in the country unlawfully. By ending this program, Maryland would lose a vital tool in ensuring that individuals who pose a significant threat to our communities—whether through violent crimes or other offenses—are held accountable and removed from the country in a timely manner.

The partnership between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities enhances the ability to keep our communities safe. It provides local police with the resources and support necessary to identify individuals with criminal backgrounds who may otherwise evade detection. As a result, ending this program would not only reduce the capacity of local agencies to address crime, but it would also make our communities more vulnerable to individuals who have broken both local and federal laws.

Furthermore, the 287(g) program fosters greater cooperation and communication between state and federal authorities, helping to ensure that law enforcement efforts are more efficient and effective. The ability for local law enforcement to receive training and assistance from federal immigration officers adds a layer of expertise that is crucial in protecting public safety.

We understand the concerns some may have regarding the program, particularly when it comes to the relationship between immigrant communities and law enforcement. However, we believe these concerns can be addressed through reforms and safeguards that ensure the program is implemented fairly and transparently, rather than eliminating it

altogether. By working together, we can find solutions that maintain public safety while respecting the rights of all individuals, regardless of their immigration status.

For these reasons, We I urge you to vote against HB1222 and allow the 287(g) program to continue in Maryland, so that our law enforcement agencies can continue to keep us safe and uphold the rule of law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Travis Marion
Mayor- Town of Rising Sun



F.D. Chip Peterson
Chief of Police – Town of Rising Sun

Opposition HB1222

Uploaded by: Glen Geelhaar

Position: UNF

Glen Geelhaar
2514 Windsor Rd
Parkville, Maryland 21234
March 27, 2025

**Testimony in opposition of HB1222
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

Dear Chair Senator William Smith and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in opposition of House Bill HB1222.

Today, law enforcement leaders from around the state rallied in Annapolis pleading for you to table HB1222 which eliminates participation with the 287g program. According to these law enforcement leaders, Maryland's participation is limited to our jails after a person has been arrested on a non-immigration related offense. <https://www.wbal.com/sheriffs-across-maryland-to-hold-press-conference-opposing-house-bill-related-to-immigration>

Maryland made national news with the murder of Kayla Hamilton and Rachel Morin both in Harford County at the hands of illegal aliens. How are Maryland law makers responding? You guessed it, they are poised to make Maryland a sanctuary State to protect illegal aliens like Rachel and Kayla's killers!

It was just after Kayla Hamilton's 20th birthday that she was strangled to death by an MS-13 gang member named Walter Martinez who was in our country illegally. Walter was just 16 years old at the time of the murder.

During the investigation, according to Fox45, Walter was placed in foster care and enrolled initially in Lansdowne High School, and later moved to Edgewood High School. Please see the link for the full story. <https://foxbaltimore.com/news/project-baltimore/multiple-failures-led-to-ms-13-murder-suspect-attending-maryland-schools-official-says-mark-morgan-walter-martinez-kayla-hamilton-tammy-nobles-edgewood-lansdowne-ice>

Kayla's killer will likely serve only a fraction of his sentence because of his age at the time of his crime. He also admitted to being an MS13 gang member and has confessed to killing 3 additional people in his native El Salvador. This legislation potentially releases this convicted murderer back onto our Maryland streets instead of sending him back to his home country to face justice!

HB1222 not only jeopardizes public safety, but also puts at risk federal funding to Maryland at a time that we are facing a budget crisis!

This is why I strongly urge you to vote no on HB1222!

Thanks,

Glen Geelhaar 443 695-3556

HB 1222 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (

Uploaded by: Mary Ann Thompson

Position: UNF



HB1222
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

MCAA Position: **OPPOSE**

TO: Judicial Proceedings

DATE: March 25, 2025

FROM: Ryan Ross, President
Lamonte Cooke, Legislative Committee
Mary Ann Thompson, Legislative Committee

The Maryland Correctional Administrator’s Association (MCAA), an organization comprised of our statewide jail wardens and administrators for promoting and improving best correctional practices, appreciates the opportunity to provide information regarding HB 1222.

As written, the proposed bill language limits the autonomy of elected officials in local jurisdictions, specifically with respect to immigration enforcement agreements. Elected Sheriffs and County Executives are directly accountable to their constituents. As such, they must be empowered to make decisions based on the specific needs and priorities of their communities. Local governments must retain the flexibility to govern and address public safety matters effectively and in a way that is most appropriate for the unique circumstances of their jurisdictions.

The bill's language would prohibit local law enforcement agencies and governments from entering into new and maintaining established immigration enforcement agreements. This undermines the ability of local authorities to respond to public safety challenges in a manner that reflects the needs of their community and does not recognize the varying public safety concerns across Maryland counties. MCAA urges amendment to redact language prohibiting new immigration enforcement agreements and the termination of existing ones, as it undermines local authority and flexibility in addressing community-specific public safety concerns.

MCAA urges an amendment to redact language prohibiting new immigration enforcement agreements and the termination of existing ones, as this undermines local authority and flexibility in addressing community-specific public safety concerns.

MCAA urges a return to the language mandating 48-hour detentions of covered individuals in the best interest of the individual, federal authorities, local law enforcement, and the broader community. A 48-hour detention gives federal authorities adequate time to prioritize and plan for the transfer of the individual, in a secure and manageable environment, avoiding unpredictable and potentially dangerous outcomes that could arise from apprehensions conducted in public spaces.

To further prevent the potential release of dangerous individuals back into the community, we recommend modifying the definition of "Covered Individual" to include individuals charged with any jailable offense and those with an existing immigration detainer issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The addition of these amendments takes into

account the rapid nature of pre-trial release as well as crimes of violence unknown to local authorities.

Specifically,

“(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS 16 INDICATED. 17 (2) “COVERED INDIVIDUAL” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO: 18 (I) IS NOT LAWFULLY PRESENT IN THE UNITED STATES IS THE 19 SUBJECT OF AN ACTIVE IMMIGRATION DETAINER REQUEST; AND 20 (II)

1. HAS BEEN CONVICTED ON OR AFTER JUNE 1, 2025,”

If this Bill is passed as written, it would result in the removal of previous lodged detainers on individuals who have been convicted of any crime (Murder, Rape etc.) prior to June 1, 2025. This retroactively dismisses any Immigration enforcement action taken prior to 2025, which would result in individuals convicted of crimes, that include Sex Offense, Assaults, Domestic Violence, Drug Offense being returned to our communities instead of being deported.

This Bill further states that Immigration Detainers could only be lodged on individuals charged with a “CRIME OF VIOLENCE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 14–101 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE”

Below is the actual Criminal Law Article:

§ 14-101. Mandatory sentences for crimes of violence.

(a) "Crime of violence" defined.- In this section, "crime of violence" means:

- (1) abduction;
- (2) arson in the first degree;
- (3) kidnapping;
- (4) manslaughter, except involuntary manslaughter;
- (5) mayhem;
- (6) maiming, as previously proscribed under former Article 27, §§ 385 and 386 of the Code;
- (7) murder;
- (8) rape;
- (9) robbery under § 3-402 or § 3-403 of this article;
- (10) carjacking;
- (11) armed carjacking;
- (12) sexual offense in the first degree;
- (13) sexual offense in the second degree;
- (14) use of a handgun in the commission of a felony or other crime of violence;
- (15) child abuse in the first degree under § 3-601 of this article;
- (16) sexual abuse of a minor under § 3-602 of this article if:
 - (i) the victim is under the age of 13 years and the offender is an adult at the time of the offense; and
 - (ii) the offense involved:
 1. vaginal intercourse, as defined in § 3-301 of this article;
 2. a sexual act, as defined in § 3-301 of this article;
 3. an act in which a part of the offender's body penetrates, however slightly, into the victim's genital opening or anus; or
 4. the intentional touching, not through the clothing, of the victim's or the offender's genital, anal, or other intimate area for sexual arousal, gratification, or abuse;

- (17) an attempt to commit any of the crimes described in items (1) through (16) of this subsection;
- (18) continuing course of conduct with a child under § 3-315 of this article;
- (19) assault in the first degree;
- (20) assault with intent to murder;
- (21) assault with intent to rape;
- (22) assault with intent to rob;
- (23) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the first degree; and
- (24) assault with intent to commit a sexual offense in the second degree.

(b) Scope of section.- This section does not apply if a person is sentenced to death.

(c) Fourth conviction of crime of violence.-

As you can see this list does not include a considerable number of significant crimes, examples that immediately come to mind are child pornography charges, third and fourth degree sex offenses, possession of an illegal weapon and no drug charges. So, drug king pin charges or distribution of heroin would not apply. Neither would human trafficking.

The other significant concern is the section that states:

“PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE RELEASE OF A COVERED INDIVIDUAL FOR UP TO WITHIN 48 HOURS BEFORE THE RELEASE OF THE COVERED INDIVIDUAL TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES; AND TRANSFER A COVERED INDIVIDUAL TO FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES PROVIDED THAT THE TRANSFER DOES NOT EXTEND THE TIME IN CUSTODY OF THE COVERED INDIVIDUAL BEYOND THE INDIVIDUAL’S SCHEDULED RELEASE.”

Current Federal law allows 48 hours for an individual to be picked up for an ICE detainer from a correctional facility; the proposed state law would require the correctional facility to notify ICE 48 hours before the individual is released.

The facility could not hold the individual for any length of time after they had been ordered released.

As written this bill would eliminate a majority of individuals picked up by ICE for detainers because a vast majority of individuals released from local correctional facilities are not scheduled releases that would allow for a 48-hour notification.

Anyone who posts their bond, gets released on parole, or is released from the courts for time served or court order could not be held past their release if they had an ICE detainer and would be released immediately.

Individuals who have detainers in other counties, states, and by other police agencies, including federal agencies (FBI, Marshalls, DEA, ATF), are routinely held past their release date so that they can be picked up for their detainer.

This bill would also eliminate the possibility of an individual who was convicted of a crime of violence as defined in this bill to be picked up if they get released on parole because of the 48-hour notice to ICE.

The Maryland Correctional Administrators Association strongly opposes this bill and respectfully requests that this committee issue an UNFAVORABLE REPORT on House Bill 1222.

Oppose HB1222 (1) (MD Values Act).pdf

Uploaded by: Nancy Shih

Position: UNF

I strongly oppose HB1222!

The Democratic Party is losing big, and they still don't get it! Americans—including Marylanders—demand a secure border and safe communities, free from violent criminals.

Yet, HB1222 prioritizes protecting dangerous illegal rapists and murderers from deportation instead of protecting innocent people. This is lawlessness at its worst.

Marylanders deserve leaders who uphold the law, not corrupt politicians who shield criminals. It's time to hold them accountable and reject their reckless, pro-criminal agenda!

Vote NO on HB1222.

Nancy

Howard County

Oppose HB1222 (MD Values Act).pdf

Uploaded by: Nancy Shih

Position: UNF

I strongly oppose HB1222 for the following reasons:

HB1222 is a pro-criminal, anti-public safety bill that prioritizes shielding violent offenders over protecting Maryland communities.

By terminating existing immigration enforcement agreements (such as 287(g)) by July 1, 2025, HB1222 ensures that local law enforcement cannot cooperate with ICE to remove violent criminals from our streets.

This creates a safe haven for repeat offenders, gang members, and other dangerous individuals.

Please vote NO on HB1222.

Nancy

Howard County

MCPA_MSA - HB 1222 Maryland Values Act OPPOSE.pdf

Uploaded by: Samira Jackson

Position: UNF



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:

532 Baltimore Boulevard, Suite 308
Westminster, Maryland 21157
667-314-3216 / 667-314-3236

- **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.

HB 1222 testimony latest.pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Adams

Position: UNF

Main Office
107 Chesapeake Blvd., Ste. 112
Elkton, MD 21921
410-996-5500 | 410-996-5518 Fax



**Detention Center &
Community Corrections**
500 Landing Lane
Elkton, MD 21921
CCDC 410-996-5800 | 410-996-5525 Fax
CC 410-996-5810 | 410-996-5515 Fax

**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.

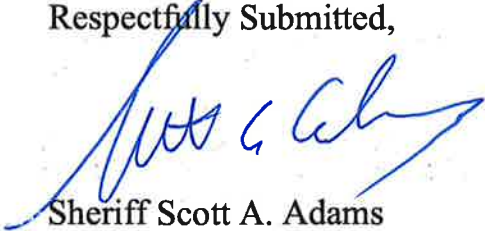
In the form of some background, ICE's 287(g) Program was established under President Bill Clinton in the 1990s and has remained a vital public safety program and partnership for more than 30 years through each changing Presidential Administration. In fact, we were accepted into the Program under President 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

FAIR immigration Reform

Uploaded by: Shari Rendall

Position: UNF



March 27, 2025

The Honorable William Smith
Chairman
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Smith and other distinguished members of the Committee,

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of concerned individuals who believe that our immigration laws must be reformed to serve our nation's interests.

FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment. Founded in 1979, FAIR has more than three million members and supporters nationwide, including approximately 12,300 in Maryland. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR's opposition to House Bill (HB) 1222.

This bill purports to have local officials cooperate with federal immigration officials in limited circumstances, however, this cooperation is completely illusory. The bill language only requires officials to provide immigration officials with notice within 48 hours of release and transfer individuals convicted of certain enumerated crimes to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) only if there is an active detainer request.

This cooperation is an illusion because localities that wish to shield these dangerous criminals in their communities will have the ability to call ICE a minute or two before their release time knowing that ICE will be unable to get to their jails before the criminal aliens are released back into the community to commit further crimes. Moreover, the bill specifically states that localities cannot hold criminal aliens to transfer them to ICE if it exceeds their scheduled release.

Moreover, the bill goes even further by eliminating the 287(g) program for law enforcement officers seeking to remove criminal aliens from their communities. This legislation conflicts with federal law. 8 U.S.C. §1357 (g) states that law enforcement officers may enter into memorandums of understanding with ICE but also that a formal agreement with the federal government is not necessary for any officer or employee of a state or local agency to communicate with the Attorney General regarding the immigration status of any individual, including reporting knowledge that a particular alien is not lawfully present in the United States or to cooperate with the Attorney General in the identification, apprehension, detention, or removal of aliens not lawfully present in the United States.

In its 2022 End-of-Year report (the most recent one available), the Department of Homeland Security highlighted the effectiveness of the state and federal partnerships. State and local law enforcement 287(g) officers encountered 8,842 aliens from 141 countries. Of those encountered, 1,895 were convicted criminals and 4,999 had pending criminal charges. Among the charges and convictions were 1,594 for assault, 1,189 for dangerous drugs, 74 for homicides, and 430 for larceny. Only 160 had criminal charges or convictions for immigration.

Moreover, policies, like HB. 1222 deny ICE critical assistance to enable it to accomplish its statutorily mandated mission to identify and ultimately remove illegal aliens who are currently in state or local custody. ICE has roughly 20,000 employees, but less than half are dedicated to the apprehension and removal of illegal aliens. The cooperation of state and local law enforcement, which number about 900,000 strong, is vital to ferreting out those among us who are here illegally and who wish to cause us harm.

To ensure the safety of our communities, state and local law enforcement and governments should be encouraged—not discouraged—from cooperating with federal immigration authorities. For these reasons, FAIR opposes HB 1222.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of assistance. I may be reached by email at srendall@fairus.org or by phone at 202- 328-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Rendall". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Shari Rendall

HB 1222 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sheriff Charles Jenkins

Position: UNF

FREDERICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HEADQUARTERS FREDERICK COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

110 Airport Drive East
Frederick, Md. 21701
301-600-1046
301-600-1527 (Fax)
301-600-7655 (TTY)

JUDICIAL OPERATIONS

100 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, Md. 21701
301-600-2162
301-600-3690 (Fax)



CHARLES A. JENKINS
SHERIFF

DETENTION CENTER/ CENTRAL BOOKING

7300 Marcie's Choice Lane
Frederick, Md. 21704
301-600-2550 (D.C.)
301-600-2566 (D.C. Fax)
301-600-1790 (C.B.)
301-600-1791 (C.B. Fax)

WORK RELEASE CENTER

7281 Marcie's Choice Lane
Frederick, Md. 21704
301-600-1727
301-600-3404 (Fax)

HB 1222 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Date: March 27, 2025
Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Position: Opposed/ Unfavorable
From: Sheriff Charles A. Jenkins

As Sheriff for Frederick County, responsible for the safety and protection of the citizens of Frederick County, I strongly urge the committee to give **HB 1222 – Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)** an unfavorable recommendation.

The purpose of this legislation is to end all existing immigration enforcement agreements i.e., 287g agreements, prohibiting new agreements, and to eliminate any effective level of cooperation between law enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security / ICE with immigration enforcement. This will be extremely detrimental to the state of Maryland.

More than 70% of Marylanders agree with the current policies of this administration that illegal immigrants / non-citizens that commit crimes, that have serious criminal pasts from other countries, that are criminal gang members, that are national security threats should be identified, detained, and placed in custody of DHS/ICE for removal and deportation. This is a serious overwhelming concern of **your** constituents statewide.

This legislation specifically targets three counties in Maryland that have existing 287(g) Delegation of Authority Programs, taking away the authority of a county Sheriff which is a duly elected Maryland Constitutional office, to lawfully enter into an agreement with federal immigration authorities to better protect their communities.

287(g) is a jail-based program with limited authorities for trained officers to assist ICE with determining immigration status after a criminal arrest, and the preparation and service of detainers under the supervision of ICE. Criminals with ICE detainers are not released back into the communities and are transferred to ICE custody in the secure jail setting. The Sheriff has no part or influence in the process or the program.

The transfer of criminal detainees to ICE occurs within the confines of the jail with no risk to the detainee or the public. When ICE agents have to locate and take a criminal target into custody on the street there is always the unintentional risk to the general public, the wanted individual, and to law enforcement. This has also now become a situation of ICE probably making unplanned arrests of illegal immigrants who just happen to be in the wrong place creating collateral damage to families.


These criminals overwhelmingly prey on and victimize the immigrant communities, which proponents of this bill say they are aiming to protect. Removing criminals from immigrant communities builds real trust with law enforcement in the immigrant communities that live in fear of the criminals. The argument that the program intimidates, creates fear, and tears down trust is simply not true.

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office currently has the longest standing 287(g) program of any Sheriff's Office in the United States, recognized by ICE as a model partnership, perhaps the most effective in the eastern United States. Since 2008, we have removed 1795 criminals, many being dangerous felons. By whatever measure used, we are a safer county with less crime. It's not possible to quantify crimes that never occur.

Frederick County is a fast growing, diverse, business friendly, and a deep-rooted welcoming community, only because it's such a safe county to live in. In part because of the 287g partnership, Frederick County is one of the safest counties in the state and the entire region.

The passing of this legislation and termination of these immigration enforcement agreements will only serve to make our streets more dangerous, embolden more violent criminals, and place our families at greater risk of being a crime victim.

Thank you for considering common sense reasoning and recognizing the criminal threats we all face. Please vote for an unfavorable committee report on **HB 1222**.

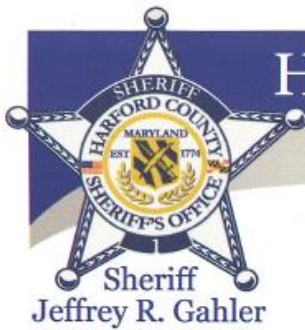


Charles A. Jenkins
Sheriff of Frederick County, MD

Senate HB 1222 Immigration Enforcement Oppose_.pdf

Uploaded by: Sheriff Jeff Gahler

Position: UNF



HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

COURAGE HONOR INTEGRITY

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.

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 Harford County, we have proudly partnered with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the last 8 years through our 287(g) 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 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. I am hopefully that this Committee will support the will of the people and public safety to ensure we have the ability to work cooperatively with all of our federal partners to keep our communities safe.

Sadly, and needlessly, our community has witnessed firsthand the horrific impact that illegal immigration brings to our door. The first event was when a 20-year-old autistic woman was raped and murdered by a 17-year-old illegal immigrant who was a gang

member from El Salvador, and then a year later, a young mother was killed while out jogging. In the course of the later investigation, it was determined her killer was also an illegal immigrant from El Salvador who was also wanted in connection with a murder of a young woman in that Country.

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.

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 Offered,

Sheriff Jeffrey R. Gahler

DO NOT SUPPORT OF BILL20250321_11240737.pdf

Uploaded by: Tom Wieland

Position: UNF

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL:BECAUSE

THIS BILL AS WRITTEN DOES NOT WARRANT IT'S EXPENSE

Tom Wieland

2464 Symphony Lane

Gambrills, Md. 21054

testomony against HB 1222_migrant law.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Wei Yan

Position: UNF

Dear Chair and senate Judiciary Committee Members,

Please oppose HB1222 is a pro-criminal, anti-public safety bill that prioritizes shielding violent offenders over protecting Maryland communities. Here's why this bill must be opposed:

1. Protects Criminals Over Law-Abiding Citizens

This bill would require Maryland correctional facilities and law enforcement to ignore active immigration detainer requests for individuals convicted of violent crimes.

Instead of transferring dangerous criminals to ICE, Maryland would release them back into the community, endangering innocent people. This is unconstitutional.

2. Makes Maryland a Sanctuary for Violent Offenders

By terminating existing immigration enforcement agreements (such as 287(g)) by July 1, 2025, HB1222 ensures that local law enforcement cannot cooperate with ICE to remove violent criminals from our streets.

This creates a safe haven for repeat offenders, gang members, and other dangerous individuals.

3. Undermines Public Safety & Endangers Marylanders

Violent criminals should not be protected from deportation. HB1222 would allow dangerous offenders—including those convicted of murder, rape, and assault—to walk free instead of being deported.

Ignoring ICE detainer requests means that violent offenders will remain in Maryland communities rather than being removed from the country.

4. Burdens Law Enforcement & Undermines Their Authority

HB1222 forces Maryland law enforcement to cut ties with federal immigration enforcement, making it harder to track and remove dangerous individuals.

This bill restricts the ability of local law enforcement agencies to protect their communities and forces them to release violent offenders against their better judgment.

5. Increases Crime & Hurts Victims

When violent criminals are released instead of deported, they often reoffend. HB1222 would directly contribute to higher crime rates in Maryland.

Victims of violent crimes deserve justice, not policies that protect their attackers from deportation.

Conclusion: HB1222 Must Be Defeated

This bill puts politics over public safety by prioritizing the protection of violent criminal offenders over Maryland residents. Lawmakers should focus on removing dangerous individuals—not sheltering them.

Therefore, I am unfavorable to the bill HB1222.

Please oppose this bill.

Respectfully,

Wei Yan