



## **POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**BILL:** SB0088 - State and Local Government – Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

**POSITION:** SUPPORT

**DATE:** January 25, 2021

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 0088. This bill expresses the intent of the General Assembly to maintain community trust in Maryland governmental operations and law enforcement by clarifying the parameters of State and local participation in federal immigration enforcement efforts. The bill also provides that certain officials are immune from criminal and civil liability for refusing to provide information to the federal government or another state that will be used for a certain purpose; and prohibits law enforcement officials from taking certain actions consistent with these policies.

Among many other laudable achievements, this bill would ensure that local law enforcement resources are not used for civil immigration enforcement. The bill also will help ensure that immigrant members of our communities and Maryland residents of color are not victims of disproportionate policing or targets of racial profiling. This bill would help build trust of local police in immigrant communities and communities of residents of color.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 0088.