

Written Statement of Adam D. Taylor
Associate Attorney of Baker, Thomey & Emrey, PA

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Adam Taylor, I am an Associate Attorney at Baker, Thomey & Emrey, P.A. located in Elkton, Maryland. I am a 2018 Graduate of West Virginia University College of Law, and a member of the Maryland Bar since 2019. I have experience working with West Virginia University's Immigration Clinic. My fields of practice include Criminal law, Civil law, and Immigration law.

I am writing this letter to explain my personal experience with clients in my community who have been impacted by what is commonly referred to as 287(g) agreements. In December of 2019, Cecil County entered into a 287(g) agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. While I cannot share the specific details about my clients, I can explain some of the effects I have witnessed this agreement have on the local immigrant community.

The main issue I have witnessed this agreement have on the immigrant community in Cecil County is an overall hesitation to contact local law enforcement in regard to any matter. There appears to be a chilling effect that may be the result of a misunderstanding of the agreement between Cecil County and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Nonetheless, this chilling effect can contribute to a lack of trust and cooperation between the immigrant community and local law enforcement.

I have witnessed an individual who had been subject to domestic abuse for an extended period of time. The individual had not contacted the police because, as she explained, she believed that the police would detain her and contact ICE if they became aware of her immigration status. I have seen others who have been victims of a crime who have been reluctant to file a police report for the same reason.

As there are a number of people in the immigrant community who do not have access to the necessary legal information regarding immigration policies, and more importantly, a proper understanding of how certain policies can impact them directly, caution is often their best course of action.

Since the passing of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, the Federal Government has made great strides to build a rapport between the immigrant community and law enforcement. However, the 287(g) agreement has, in my experience, negatively impacted this relationship and will continue to do so. It is my belief that the proposed Trust Act is necessary if the State of Maryland is intent on mending the relationship and cooperation between law enforcement and the immigrant community.

Sincerely,



Adam D. Taylor, Esq.