

**Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee
March 3, 2021**

HB 304 - State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

FAVORABLE

To Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Committee members,

My name is Jacqueline Brinkmann and I live in Frederick, Maryland, in District 4. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 304, the Trust Act, to prevent local law enforcement from partnering with ICE, and rebuild relationships between law enforcement and the immigrant community.

As you know, immigrants in Maryland have been targeted by unjust federal immigration enforcement, with the assistance of state and local law enforcement officers who are deputized through the 287(g) program. From the beginning, 287(g) programs have led to countless stories of racial profiling and discrimination, harassment, and illegal stops, arrests, and detainment. The impact of these unjust policies is not just felt by individuals but threatens entire communities. When Maryland families and residents live in fear of interacting with police, it makes everyone unsafe.

A few months ago, I attended an event where Chuck Jenkins was addressing the public and their concerns in regard to 287g and the racial profiling that his officers are guilty of. He was confronted by a family member of Abraham Arrellano, [a man who was killed by a Frederick County police officer](#). Jenkins' response to the family member was dismissive and cold-hearted, given the fact that the case was open and that family had yet to receive clear answers on what happened to their loved one the evening that he was killed. The display of disregard for Brown lives and lack of empathy for a grieving family shows exactly where the intentions of the 287g program come from. It is a blatantly racist policy with the intent to incarcerate people into a profitable system with ICE, rather than equip them with resources and opportunities to improve their lives, as well as the lives of others in Frederick County through their work and contributions to the community. I am a firm believer that everyone should be given a chance to survive. I ask the Chairman, Vice Chair and Committee members to hear this testimony with an open heart. If your family were suffering in your home country, would you leave if it meant a promise for a better life? Please put yourself in someone else's shoes and do not rationalize this evil violence committed against people who are simply trying to survive.

For years now, Marylanders from across the state have testified in the General Assembly why our state should not continue to partner with ICE. We need to send a clear message that immigrants are safe and welcome here, and that their Constitutional rights and dignity are protected.

Many local jurisdictions have already passed Trust policies, and now is the time for Maryland to protect immigrants everywhere across our state. With the General Assembly focused on reforming police practices this session, we need to ensure that immigrants are not excluded from these historic reforms.

Now is the time to pass Trust, so that Maryland fully acknowledges the humanity of our fellow immigrant neighbors, and keeps all our communities safe.

I urge a favorable vote on HB 304.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Brinkmann