

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.**