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**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.