

**Testimony on HB 1222 - Favorable with Amendments**  
HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

House Judiciary Committee

February 27, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee,

Timothy Rothermel offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

As a citizen of Cecil County, MD for the past 9 years I have seen how our community is the safest and functions best when everyone feels they can trust those in power to not harm them. When one of us feels scared of law enforcement it makes us all less safe- people are afraid to come forward to report crimes or seek help, and our economic and community resources are strained by having to take on an agenda outside of their scope. I have witnessed how vital our immigrant community is to our local economy, for our local farmlands, and for the vibrant culture that makes up where we live. We need to work together to support all of us, not use our law enforcement and local resources to tear us apart.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland’s values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

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. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland’s resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

**Amendment Recommendation:** As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, we urge the removal of Sections 9-309(A), 9-309(B) and 5-104(5). These provisions mandate detention and transfer, which courts and the Maryland Attorney General have flagged as likely unconstitutional, exposing local governments to potential liability. Holding individuals past their scheduled release for civil immigration matters violates individuals' constitutional rights, making it unlawful. In addition to being unlawful, delayed release and transfer result in wasted state resources. Maryland must uphold due process and disentangle immigration enforcement from the criminal justice system.”

Timothy Rothermel **urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.**