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To: Members of House Judiciary Committee
From: Immigration Law Section Council
Date: February 27, 2025
Subject: **Bill HB1222** - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)
Position: **Support with Technical Amendments**

Good Afternoon, Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Heather Krick. I am here today on behalf of the Maryland State Bar Association Immigration Law Section, which officially supports HB 579 with Technical Amendments. Our section is comprised of hundreds of private attorneys, judges and immigration officials who are members of our association.

I'm a public interest attorney employed in Baltimore City and reside in Anne Arundel County and licensed to practice in Maryland. I practice primarily in humanitarian relief for immigrants. I am a member of the Section Council of the Maryland State Bar Association Immigration Law Section.

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.

The Immigration Law Section Council supports this bill with the following technical amendments:

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.”

END OF TESTIMONY