



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Bill Title: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Cooperation

Bill Number(s): [HB1188](#)

Position: UNFAVORABLE

Date: March 3, 2025

Submitted by: Director Jeremy Browning on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

To:

House Judiciary Committee

The Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair
The Hon. J. Sandy Bartlett

Testimony on Behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, works to serve LGBTQIA+ Marylanders by galvanizing community voices, researching and addressing challenges, and advocating for policies that advance equity and inclusion. The Commission envisions a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. As a vital resource, the Commission collaborates with public officials, agencies, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected and respected.

The Commission strongly opposes HB1188, which mandates cooperation between state and local law enforcement agencies and federal immigration authorities. This bill would have a harmful and chilling effect on immigrant communities, particularly LGBTQIA+ immigrants, by increasing the risk of profiling, detention, and deportation. The policies outlined in HB1188 would undermine public trust in law enforcement, jeopardize public safety, and disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, including transgender and nonbinary individuals, asylum seekers, and those fleeing violence and persecution.

HB1188 compels local law enforcement to notify and cooperate with federal immigration authorities when detaining individuals suspected of being undocumented. This policy erodes trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, discouraging individuals from reporting crimes, seeking protection from domestic violence, or cooperating in investigations due to fear of deportation.

National data from the [2022 U.S. Transgender Survey](#) underscores the heightened risks of discrimination, violence, and barriers to essential services faced by transgender individuals. Additionally, the [Maryland Trans Survey](#) found that a significant percentage of transgender Marylanders experience verbal harassment, threats, and physical violence. Fear of

discrimination often prevents transgender and LGBTQIA+ immigrants from accessing healthcare, law enforcement, and community resources. For LGBTQIA+ individuals without legal immigration status, these challenges are even greater, as the threat of immigration enforcement discourages them from seeking medical care, reporting crimes, or utilizing social services.

The recent case reported in the Baltimore Banner of [April Amaya-Luis](#), a transgender woman from Kent County, exemplifies the potential harms of this bill. Amaya-Luis, who is without legal immigration status but legally married to a U.S. citizen and had filed for legal status, was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement after complying with a routine probation check-in. Instead of being released pending her immigration case, she was transferred to an ICE detention facility in Miami, where she was housed with men despite legal documentation confirming her gender as female. This egregious violation of her rights reflects a broader pattern of discrimination and targeted enforcement against transgender immigrants, who already face heightened vulnerabilities. Cases like Amaya-Luis' make clear that LGBTQIA+ individuals without legal immigration status, especially transgender women, need greater legal protections to ensure they are treated with dignity and respect.

Instead of promoting cooperation and public safety, HB1188 would deter LGBTQIA+ immigrants from seeking healthcare, reporting crimes, and engaging with law enforcement out of fear of detention and deportation. The Commission urges the General Assembly to uphold Maryland's commitment to equity and justice by rejecting HB1188.

This bill would harm public safety, undermine community trust, and disproportionately impact LGBTQIA+ immigrants. We must continue to foster an inclusive and safe Maryland by rejecting policies that promote fear and discrimination.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the House Judiciary Committee to oppose HB1188.