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**TESTIMONY ON HB1222 - POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
PUBLIC SAFETY - IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT (MARYLAND VALUES
ACT)**

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

FROM: Jeffrey S. Rubin

My name is Jeffrey S. Rubin. I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support with amendments of HB1222, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act).

Like many Marylanders, I live in an area that is home to many immigrants. They have made valuable contributions to my community and Maryland in general through their labor and sharing of their cultural heritage. They have served as responsible, compassionate home health care aids for my family and neighbors. Unfortunately, in recent years, inflammatory and misleading rhetoric about immigrants has led to increased fear and uncertainty within immigrant populations. At times, this has been reinforced by intimidating practices of law enforcement officials, practices now being encouraged by the federal government. I believe it would be counterproductive for Maryland state and local law enforcement officers to participate in any 287(g) programs.

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.

In agreement with the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, I 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.”

I urge the Committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB1222.