

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,

Kim Hayes, resident of Frederick, MD, offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety -**

Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

It's my understanding that the intent of the 287(g) program is to keep our communities safe, but the reality is that in the process of supporting ICE efforts to deport violent criminals, far too many hard working, decent people—and children—are paying the price.

The 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, essentially turning them into immigration agents rather than community protectors. I have seen and heard first-hand that immigrant communities do not feel safe. Under these conditions, they're less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed, which doesn't help anyone.

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).

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."

I (Kim Hayes) urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.