



**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,

Arnolia United Methodist Church (UMC) in Parkville, MD offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

Arnolia UMC's mission is to follow Jesus, grow disciples, and serve others. Located in Parkville, MD we are connected to our community through the ministry of our Thrift store, our connection to the families of Oakleigh Elementary School, and other ministerial partnerships in sensitive locations. As United Methodists, our *Social Principles* root is in the value that all persons are of sacred worth and we follow the lead of our denomination through our *Book of Resolutions* by living out our ministry as a sanctuary church, committed to support immigrants and refugees.<sup>1</sup> We are committed to ending discrimination in our world.

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.

As Methodists through our Baptismal vows we are committed to resisting “evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.” And we see how the 287(g) program has increased discrimination for many marylanders. And thus we must use our voice to call for an ending of these discriminatory practices so that all may be free to participate in the lives of their community without fear of ICE enforcement through the use of the local police force.

**Amendment Recommendation:** As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, we urge the removal of

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<sup>1</sup> United Methodist Church, *The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2020/2024*, 1st ed (Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 2025), para. 163; Church, sec. 4276.

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.”

**Arnolia UMC urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.**