



**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,

On behalf of the **Frederick County Branch of the NAACP** and our dedicated members, we submit this testimony in **favorable with amendments** support of HB 1222, the Maryland Values Act. The NAACP has long stood at the forefront of the fight for civil rights, racial justice, and equal protection under the law. As the oldest and boldest civil rights organization in the nation, we remain committed to ensuring the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all individuals, while working tirelessly to eliminate race-based discrimination.

The Frederick NAACP believes that **an injustice to one is an injustice to all**. The 287(g) program violates this principle by enabling racial profiling, discrimination, and fear within immigrant communities, eroding trust between law enforcement and the people they are sworn to protect. As a civil rights organization, we cannot ignore the injustices inflicted by this program, which disproportionately targets Latinx individuals and fosters an environment of harassment, wrongful detention, and family separation.

The case of *Medrano v. Jenkins* is a stark reminder of the dangers of 287(g) agreements. Sara Medrano, a Latina Frederick resident, was unlawfully stopped, detained, and questioned solely because of her ethnicity. The Frederick County Sheriff's Office has a documented history of similar actions, demonstrating that racial profiling is not just an isolated incident but an institutionalized problem. The Maryland Values Act is an opportunity to correct this injustice and ensure that our state stands for fairness, dignity, and due process.

Law enforcement should focus on protecting and serving our communities—not acting as an arm of federal immigration enforcement. Programs like 287(g) undermine public safety by making immigrant communities hesitant to report crimes, seek medical attention, or engage with local authorities for fear of deportation. This makes everyone less safe.

**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 is constitutionally suspect. In addition to being presumptively unlawful, the delayed release and transfer result in wasted state resources. Maryland must uphold due process and disentangle immigration enforcement from the criminal justice system.

We urge this committee to pass HB 1222 with the recommended amendments that will ensure Maryland's resources are used to protect, uplift, and support all residents, rather than enable federal deportation practices that divide families and foster fear. The NAACP stands in solidarity with immigrant communities and all marginalized groups targeted by discriminatory policies. We call upon our lawmakers to uphold Maryland's values and put an end to 287(g) once and for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We urge you to **vote favorably with amendments** on HB 1222.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Ashley Bush

Secretary, NAACP Frederick County Branch

**Willie Mahone, President**