

TESTIMONY FOR HB1222

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Presented to the Judiciary Committee

February 27, 2025

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice chair Bartlett and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Daniel Golombek, and I am resident of district 11B. I am writing in strong support of HB1222 (Maryland Values Act).

By prohibiting any involvement of state and local law enforcement, county sheriffs and their agents in federal immigration enforcement, the bill aims to build trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, encouraging cooperation and reporting of crimes. This can lead to safer communities overall. Furthermore, the bill ensures that state and local resources are focused on public safety priorities rather than federal immigration enforcement, promoting a more efficient and just use of resources.

Amendment Recommendation: 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.

As I believe that by prioritizing the well-being and rights of every resident, we can foster a more inclusive and secure community for everyone, I strongly support this bill with the suggested amendments and recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.

Thank you.

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