

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of District 43b. I am testifying **in support of HB1222 - the Maryland Values Act.**



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

The Maryland Values Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in Cecil, Hartford, and Frederick Counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts: increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities.

For instance, the 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling with a “chilling effect” in Hispanic communities.<sup>1</sup> Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to “wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program.”<sup>2</sup> Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who “posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%.”<sup>3</sup>

In short, ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

From 2017 through early 2021, the previous Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite people in urban areas citing costs and the impact on community relations. The Department of Homeland Security removed expiration dates and other guardrails that, under the Obama administration, had provided any attempted reforms and changes to the agreements.<sup>4</sup> This is likely to occur again throughout the second Trump administration, undoing the reforms the Biden administration put into effect. Additionally, the American Immigration Council notes that ICE already has proven ineffective at following federal policies put in place to attempt to curb these negative effects.

Maryland’s large immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers and a third of the state’s building maintenance staff and groundskeepers, as well as supporting a thriving, diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland’s immigrant communities contributed \$8 billion in federal and \$4 billion in state taxes, provided \$2 billion in business revenue from

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Coon. (8 Aug 2018). “Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population.” *Journal on Migration and Human Security*, 5(3). Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/233150241700500305>

<sup>2</sup> Charles Powers. (Feb 2024). “287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities.” *Immigration and Human Right Law Review*, 3(1). Retrieved from <https://scholarship.law.uc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1079&context=ihr>

<sup>3</sup> American Immigration Council. (20 Jan 2025.) “The 287(g) Program: An Overview” [fact sheet]. Retrieved from <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/287g-program-immigration>

<sup>4</sup> The American Civil Liberties Union. (26 Apr 2022). *License to Abuse: How ICE’s 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs*. Retrieved from <https://www.aclu.org/publications/license-abuse-how-ices-287g-program-empowers-racist-sheriffs>

entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power<sup>5</sup>. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

**It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of HB1222 - the Maryland Values Act.**

Sincerely,  
Theresa M. Hoffman  
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Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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<sup>5</sup> American Immigration Council. (2020). "Immigrants in Maryland." Retrieved from [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrants\\_in\\_maryland.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrants_in_maryland.pdf)