

Dear **Members of the Judiciary Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of **District 45. I am testifying in support of HB1222 - the Maryland Values Act.**

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 including: 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. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

Research and reporting<sup>1-3</sup> shows us that 287(g) agreements shift resources away from investigating violent crimes and lead to racial profiling, wrongful detainment, and fear in communities of color. The last Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite urban areas citing costs and the impact on community relations. DHS removed expiration dates and other guardrails that provided any attempted reforms and changes to the agreements under the Obama administration<sup>4</sup>. This is likely to again occur to the reforms the Biden administration put into effect. Additionally, the American Immigration Council cites 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, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing \$8 billion in federal and \$4 billion in state taxes, providing \$2 billion in business revenue from 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,

**Brytani Fraser**

**3211 Moravia rd. Baltimore, MD 21214**

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

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<sup>1</sup> [Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Charles Powers; 287\(g\): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The 287\(g\) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council](#)

<sup>4</sup> [License to Abuse: How ICE's 287\(g\) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\); April, 26, 2022](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council](#)