



# FREDERICK

## MARYLAND

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### House Judiciary Committee: HB1222: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

February 27, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee,

I serve as the City Council President for Maryland's second largest city, the City of Frederick. I offer a favorable with amendment testimony for HB 1222. We are home to over 85,000 residents and welcome many more visitors each year. The 287(g) program contradicts the City of Frederick's values, reflected in our Vision Statement that includes: "All voices are encouraged and respected, fostering one of the most civically engaged cities in America."<sup>1</sup>

Respectfully I submit to you that this is the year to end outdated and irrelevant programs. As a City Council President approaching budget season, I can attest that we must end programs that have long-since been proven to lack public accountability, effectiveness, and justification. The legislation before you seeks to ensure that our resources are not diverted to enforce federal immigration laws.

#### **Program Outcomes: 287(g) Lacks Public Accountability**

Evaluation of this program is difficult because there is little disclosed helpful information. Frederick County boasts one of the "longest standing partnerships" in the country, operating since 2008: what do the residents have to show for this distraction? The program has been in existence for nearly 20 years with no meaningful reporting of how the spent resources provides any public benefit. Appearances on *Fox News* is not public accountability and attempting to research 287(g) only leaves more questions. The program states that it is for the:

"identification of illegal aliens who have been arrested for the commission of crimes through the booking process, and have detainees placed on them to begin removal ... [as] appropriate by ICE".<sup>2</sup>

One known outcome? Racial profiling.<sup>3</sup> This body has worked hard, in partnership with law enforcement, to eradicate the unjust actions that the 287(g) program actually encourages.

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<sup>1</sup> The CommUNITY 2030 Plan is visible here:

<https://www.cityoffrederickmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17606/20191219-Strategic-Plan-Master-Doc> and our full Vision Statement is found on page 29. We have worked to improve our civic engagement, most recently, by extending voting rights to all residents for City elections, effective this year for our 2025 election.

<sup>2</sup> Visit <https://www.frederickcosheriff.com/287g-program> and witness the lack of information provided to the community.

<sup>3</sup> The program incentivizes pretextual stops to pipeline them into ICE's deportation system. In Frederick alone, the Sheriff has settled two racial profiling lawsuits, including Sara Medrano's in 2019, of residents whose only crimes were being at work, or driving home, while Latine. In [Medrano vs. Jenkins](#), the Sheriff's Department and the County were famously sued by Latina Frederick resident Sara Medrano for racial profiling and wrongful detention. On July 7, 2018, Sara Medrano was driving with her daughter and grandchildren when two Frederick

### **Program Effectiveness: 287(g) Diverts Public Safety Resources**

Participation in this program makes our communities less safe: when our law enforcement staff time goes toward doing ICE's job for them they do not have time to building cooperation with our immigrant communities - let alone enforce speeding, deterring drunk driving when the bars close, or solving crimes in our neighborhoods. We want members of our community to feel safe in reporting crime: this is common sense. The simple truth that immigrants are more likely to be victims of crimes than are U.S. citizens. This program doesn't do what it was intended to do.<sup>4</sup>

### **Program Implementation: Maryland General Assembly Audit Responsibilities**

I urge the committee to provide a favorable with amendments report on HB 1222. The legislature is within its authority to review, deliberate, and ultimately find that a program decreases the safety of the residents of our state. The governments that entered into agreements, some dating back to 2008, have failed to demonstrate compelling outcomes that match the necessary public safety resource diversion. Politically-motivated hate speech that is often heard in defense with this program: what justification exists to use local resources to carry out federal mandates?

An end of 287(g) is necessary: I respectfully ask for your help to protect Marylanders and pass HB 1222 with amendments.

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sheriff's deputies stopped her – purportedly for a broken taillight – and questioned where she was from and what her immigration status was. Then the deputies unlawfully tried to hold her for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in violation of the Fourth Amendment. When Ms. Medrano finally returned home, she realized that her taillight was working just fine and that the deputies, in fact, stopped and questioned her because she was Latina. The case was settled, awarding Medrano hundreds in damages, along with a written apology from Sheriff Jenkins for the misconduct she endured.

<sup>4</sup> Supporters of 287(g) use political grandstanding and fear to keep this program alive. Their unsubstantiated claims relating to public safety have been found to be false. In my own home county of Frederick County, data shows that 80% of 287(g) detainees have been for minor Level 3 offenses, or misdemeanors, and 60% for traffic violations.