

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,

I am a resident of Mount Rainier and member of Doctors for Camp Closure and the American Public Health Association (APHA). I am offering a "favorable with amendment" testimony in support of HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act).

I am familiar with the 287(g) program which is currently in effect in only three Maryland counties. One of them is Frederick County where I have had close friends attend Hood College. They have shared their personal experiences of racist policing and immigrant detention in Frederick County. The APHA has recognized that over-policing has negative health outcomes for communities and in 2018 passed a policy statement, "Addressing Law Enforcement Violence as a Public Health Issue". In 2017 the *Journal of Immigration and Security* published "Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population" by Michael Coon at the University of Tampa under a grant from the Hood College Board of Associates. Taken together these publications demonstrate the dangers to health and safety from current application of the 287(g) program. Further it diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors.

In Mount Rainier I have seen how immigrants distrusted the government even before the present efforts to expand ICE's outreach. Even documented immigrants were hesitant to access rental assistance during COVID-19. A program like 287(g) further erodes trust making residents less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed..

Therefore I support the intent of this bill to end 287(g) programs throughout the state. But I would urge an amendment to remove Sections 9-309(A), 9-309(B) and 5-104(5). These provisions mandate detention and transfer which violates an individual's rights. Maryland should continue to uphold due process for all.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.

Linda D. Green MD 
Mount Rainier, Maryland