

Favorable - HB1222 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

Dear Members of the Maryland House of Delegates Judiciary Committee

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As the daughter of a refugee from a fascist regime, I am very concerned when I see signs that our country is turning into a police state. Local agreements granting power to local authorities to enforce federal law - such as a 287(g) agreement with ICE - is one of these signs.

We have three counties who are currently authorized to engage in a 287(g) agreement. And more county executives have voiced sentiments supporting these agreements.

This is dangerous territory for a number of reasons:

287(g) agreements erode trust between immigrant communities and the police. If undocumented immigrants believe that local police will detain them simply for being here without papers, they will not report crimes. This leads to actual violent criminals getting away with their crime as they are not being reported. **This makes all of us less safe.**

287(g) agreements divert police attention away from pursuing violent criminals since they are now incentivized to focus on pursuing otherwise law-abiding residents whose only crime is being here without papers. These residents have often been here for years, have family ties here, pay taxes (without reaping the benefits of those taxes), provide many services that our community relies upon, and are integral members of our community.

287(g) agreements increase racial profiling, again, resulting in otherwise law-abiding citizens being caught up in a sweep. A 2017 [study](#) of Frederick County supports this fact.

287(g) agreements cost the taxpayers money via having to pay for the program, as well as from settling racial profiling and unlawful detention lawsuits brought by those who have been targeted by the program. See [Medrano vs Jenkins](#).

287(g) agreements are a slippery slope. If local officials are authorized with Federal immigration law duties, then what is next?

PLEASE NOTE: I support any police or ICE action that is specifically targeted to apprehend, arrest and place into detention any violent criminals, no matter their immigration status, and HB1222 codifies this.

For the reasons above, I ask that you give a favorable report on HB1222.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Renee Cantori
Annapolis, Maryland