

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,

MD Poor People's Campaign and Jews United for Justice offer a favorable with amendment testimony in support of HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

My church St. Anne's and many organizations I work with have visited communities near Annapolis where recent immigrants have started businesses and work at jobs that keep our established businesses open.

Economically, our community is thriving because of residents currently without citizenship.

My faith tradition sets high standards for the treatment we must give strangers in our midst. They are neighbors who deserve our respect and people we must share our many blessing with—including fear from arrest and deportation.

Below I have listed sections of HB1222 that violate my faith tradition and that I respectfully ask you to remove—ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

Amendment Recommendation: As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, we urge the removal of Sections 9-309(A), 9-309(B) and 5-104(5). These provisions mandate detention and transfer, which courts and the Maryland Attorney General have flagged as likely unconstitutional, exposing local governments to potential liability. Holding individuals past their scheduled release for civil immigration matters violates individuals' constitutional rights, making it unlawful. In addition to being unlawful, delayed release and transfer result in wasted state resources. Maryland must uphold due process and disentangle immigration enforcement from the criminal justice system.”

Personally, I urge this committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.
Respectfully, Susan Allen
3463 Rockway Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21403