

HB 1222_FWA_Roz.pdf

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Position: FWA

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, Roslyn Zinner, a member of the Immigration Team of Howard County Indivisible, offer a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

6 years ago my husband and I sponsored a Honduran family who were at the border without a sponsor. They lived with us for 3 years, then moved to their own place. The mom has been working for the school system as a teacher's aid and her 11 year old son is excelling in school. They are looking to buy a home. Other family members have since come to live here. They are vulnerable. This family is not a group of nameless immigrants, they are our family. 287(g) programs say "You are not welcome here." As a consequence, they are reluctant to access healthcare resources and, when relevant, report crimes.

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. 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."

I, Roslyn Zinner, **urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.**

HB1222_FWA_ElizabethC.pdf

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Position: FWA

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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 Elizabeth Chung of 5924 White Flint Dr., Frederick MD 21702 offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

I have been an immigrant from Hong Kong, China since 1970 and my professional background has been in public health for the last 5 decades. Throughout my career, I served the immigrant communities extensively and have witnessed the adverse impact of the ICE enforcement for the immigrant families impacted by this program. I am very proud being a naturalized citizen of the United States and I felt public safety is of utmost importance to us. At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland’s values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by 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.”

In community,

Elizabeth Chung

HB1222_FWA_Heidi Gaultney.pdf

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Position: FWA

Heidi Gaultney
123 Black Oak Drive,
Elkton, MD 21921

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 offer a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

I live in Cecil County and I urge the State legislature to formally reject 287(g) agreements on a statewide basis. Reasons for this are simple. It is unnecessary as there are other laws on the books that ensure that whenever someone is booked in a local jail, even a misdemeanor, the fingerprint data is automatically entered into the FBI database that ICE reviews. The 287g agreement has been shown to lead to racial profiling which is illegal but is a well documented sequela of 287g.

There have been lawsuits in Frederick County that cost the county significant taxpayer money that occurred because of the racial profiling conducted by the 287g trained officers. Most importantly, counties with 287g agreements have been shown to be less safe than their counterparts without these agreements. This is because the agreements have a chilling effect on residents reporting other crimes. The crimes that go unreported could be against anyone, undocumented or documented immigrants or non-immigrants.

This lack of trust in the local police is detrimental to public safety. Domestic violence increases when people are afraid to report it to local police. Women are especially vulnerable but anyone can be a victim of this. Fear of encountering police at a traffic stop can lead an otherwise law-abiding person to try to outrun the police which can lead to utterly unnecessary injuries or even deaths. This is not what we want in Maryland or anywhere else in the US.

I know of some examples recently of ICE overstepping their legal bounds. ICE agents went to a house with the names of two individuals, when those in that house denied them entry as was their right, ICE went next door to a business. The business allowed them in and they then picked up two people in the business. This behavior and the threat of this type of behavior has meant that a majority if not all businesses that cater to immigrants have noticed a significant drop in patronage. This is causing severe financial strains on their businesses.

One such business is owned by a native born American but she is having to put her savings into the business to pay the costs of running the business. This is a problem caused by the Trump

administration. It is bad economics to fight against hard-working tax-paying businesses. None of this is making anyone safer. Similarly, the 287g policies that primarily target those with low level offenses who do not pose public safety threats, are creating problems and solving none.

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.”

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB1222.

HB1222_FWA_IngridL.pdf

Uploaded by: Sebastian Brown

Position: FWA

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,

Ingrid L. Diaz Lopez offers a **favorable with amendment** testimony in support of **HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)**

I live and work in Salisbury, MD. My commitment to keeping families together and protecting immigrants' rights is deeply personal and driven by both my experiences and my work. I currently work at an organization that provides essential resources for families, where I have met many individuals who immigrated to the U.S. in search of a better life. I was once one of those individuals, so I understand firsthand the challenges of starting over in a new country—learning a new language, adapting to a different culture, and, unfortunately, facing discrimination simply because of my background. At the core of my beliefs is the conviction that all people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. We are all human, and no one should be judged or mistreated based on their ethnicity or immigration status. It is disheartening to see how prejudice and misinformation lead to unfair treatment of immigrants, creating unnecessary fear and division. Additionally, I have seen how this environment of hostility affects children, many of whom experience heightened anxiety due to concerns about their families being separated. No child should have to live with that fear. That is why I am committed to advocating for policies and initiatives that protect immigrant families and promote a society built on inclusion, compassion, and equal opportunity for all.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by 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.

I have recently noticed a rise in hostility within the community, where individuals make harmful assumptions about Hispanic people, unfairly associating them with criminal activity solely based on their appearance. While I am certain that racism has always existed, it seems to

have intensified following the recent change in presidency. More people now feel emboldened to openly express their prejudices, looking down on the immigrant community as if such behavior is acceptable. As a U.S. citizen, I have personally experienced the impact of this racial profiling. I often notice people looking at me as if I do not belong, as if I am automatically a criminal. The prevalence of racial profiling is deeply troubling, and no one should have the right to treat others with such disrespect or instill anxiety and fear in them. It is heartbreaking to witness the amount of hatred that exists, much of which stems from ignorance and a lack of understanding. While it is true that criminals exist in every community, it is unfair and unjust to generalize an entire group based on the actions of a few. Many immigrants come to this country seeking a better life for their families, working tirelessly to provide necessities such as food, shelter, and education. Their contributions and sacrifices deserve respect, not unwarranted suspicion or discrimination. It is crucial that we take the time to educate ourselves, challenge harmful stereotypes, and foster a more inclusive and compassionate society.

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.”

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

HB1222_FWA_JaneT.pdf

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Position: FWA

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to HB1222. My name is Jane Tamagna and I live in Frederick County.

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

The 287g program needs to be ended for many reasons. Living in Frederick County, I am ashamed that my County Sheriff participates in the 287g program which is a waste of valuable policing time and resources, destroys trust in the police, creates an unsafe and unwelcoming environment for our neighbors, and ignores the realities of immigrant lives and contributions to our communities.

- Wasteful use of time, money, and resources: While Frederick County Sheriff's officers are busy receiving marginal training on immigration, planning and executing arrests and raids, and wasting detention center resources and time on the added layer of processing immigration status, this total time and resources are unavailable to the community safety policing that should be happening.
- Destruction of trust that results in unreported threats: The Frederick immigrant community has expressed trust in the Frederick City police force which does not participate in 287g. The Frederick City police chief publicly states his appreciation and support for Frederick's immigrant community and has said that his force will not request immigrant status because building trust with the community is the most important foundation for successful policing. As a result, the community feels safe calling the City police and reporting threats, creating policing based on responding to and managing real threats rather than planned raids widely targeting people based on their color.
- Creating an unsafe and unwelcoming environment for our neighbors: Frederick immigrants know they can be pulled over at any time for any reason, as was Sara Medrano in 2018. Walking to work, dropping children off at school bus stops, shopping, enjoying an afternoon outside all become unsafe, frightening activities with the backdrop of being stopped with the explicit threat of detention and deportation. Imagine the life of immigrant children now... unsure if their parents will be there to pick them up at the bus stop or if they will have been detained under 287g.
- The reality of immigrants in the community: The immigration process is long and broken. Immigrants often spend decades going through the steps of the process paying lawyers each year to get to citizenship. During this time, our neighbors are working, running businesses, employing people, contributing to schools and volunteer organizations, and paying taxes. This community does not deserve to be unjustly targeted by poorly trained officers siphoning resources from the real policing work that would keep all of us – including the immigrant community - safe.

Amendment Recommendation: I 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.

For the aforementioned reasons, I urge the Committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB1222.

HB1222_FWA_MaryAnnF.pdf

Uploaded by: Sebastian Brown

Position: FWA

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

Subject: Maryland Values Act HB 1222

Today I ask for your favorable vote with amendments for the Maryland Values Act.

I have lived in Frederick County for many years. I regret to say we are one of Maryland Counties with a 287 g agreement, one whose Sheriff has spent years declaring his partnership with ICE has kept us safe from an invasion of criminals from Central America. His harsh rhetoric earned him Fox News title the Joe Arpaio of the East, the Arizona Sheriff who under the agreement made unlawful attacks on immigrants. Frederick County's Sheriff signed the 287 g agreement in 2008. By 2016 there were only a handful of agreements across the county – 32 of over 3000 agencies.

Deportations under 287 g largely disproved the argument that the County was under an alarming threat of serious crime from Hispanic residents. In fact Frederick County Sheriff's Office statistics show since 2008 80 % of detainees placed on arrestees in the jail were for minor level 3 offenses or misdemeanors and 60% were for traffic violations

And it is apparent that the 287 g agreement resulted from significant distrust of Hispanic residents. A 2017 study of county traffic arrests showed Hispanic residents experienced more arrests than would have been expected without the agreement. Further a 2019 Madrano ruling and the earlier De Santis ruling against the Sheriff's department for unlawful detentions of immigrants support the claims of bias expressed by residents. These facts and actions show that 287 g agreements have significant costs and one of these is a mistrust of law enforcement amongst many Hispanics both those with and without legal status.

Here we are now under a massive costly national campaign to deport millions of undocumented immigrants all across the country. The offensive has begun. It was reported Monday at a public meeting in Frederick that since Tuesday until tomorrow federal ICE agents in unmarked cars without uniforms are conducting field operations in Washington and Frederick Counties. The size of this Deportation Operation will require resources beyond the billion just requested from Congress. Thus the 287 g agreements can be expected to expand. They were

initially set up to include putting local officers on the street to make stops and arrests as ICE agents. Because of the widespread abuses by local officers this program was shelved in 2012. Just think what this will mean for public safety on our streets—both its effect and costs when sheriffs and police chiefs can under 287 g become on the street enforcers. Note that they have the authority to enter into 287 agreements: They do not have to have the agreement of the government entity for which they serve.

I urge Judiciary to pass this bill with amendments. We are experiencing a time when the federal government has moved to impose enormous costs on tax payers and on states and local governments for its deportation policies. Heretofore immigration law enforcement has been a federal not a local responsibility and this norm is under threat.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Ford

3702 Buckeystown Pike

Buckeystown MD 21717

Frederick Maryland

Uprooted Chesapeake Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 122

Uploaded by: Sebastian Brown

Position: FWA



UPROOTED CHESAPEAKE

Testimony on HB 1222 - Favorable with Amendments 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,

UProoted Chesapeake offers a favorable with amendment testimony in support of HB 1222- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

UProoted Chesapeake is a Community Organization based in Harford County, Maryland. Our main goal is to empower military connected and English learner students by creating inclusive events and cultural educational opportunities. Although we are a relatively new organization, we've made significant strides in connecting with the Immigrant community by partnering with local organizations. Through these collaborations, we've been able to provide services in their native language, helping families overcome language barriers. This has enabled them to better integrate into the community and access valuable resources that were previously out of reach.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by 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.

Our families deserve to feel protected, they deserve to feel safe; how will that be possible if they are constantly in fear. When local police officers are given the authority to enforce federal immigration laws, it can deter immigrants from participating in community events, educational programs, or other activities that could enhance their integration into society. This can especially harm school-age children in immigrant families, who may miss out on vital educational opportunities or feel unsafe in their own schools.

Amendment Recommendation: As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, we urge the removal of Sections 9-309(A) and (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 legal risk. Holding individuals past their release for civil immigration matters is unlawful, and transfer often results in wrongful detention and wasted state resources. Maryland must uphold due process and disentangle immigration enforcement from the criminal justice system.

UProoted Chesapeake urges the committee to provide a favorable report with amendments on HB 1222.