

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 20, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Zanchelli, and I am a resident of Mount Rainier, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in communities and undermine public safety for everyone. There is a robust body of evidence that demonstrates when people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Over the last year, I have witnessed multiple abductions of community members at the hands of ICE. I have seen the devastation from neighbors when they learn their loved ones have been detained. Over the last few months, we have seen the brutality and lawlessness DHS, ICE, and U.S. Park Police have wrought on our communities. When others document within their legal rights, they risk being harassed, beaten, and detained. My neighbors and friends who are not white are scared; they know they can be subject to arbitrary stops and detention, sometimes for days at a time.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Prohibiting 287(g) slows down this lawlessness and prevents more racial profiling at the hands of law enforcement. It would maintain and allow for more trust between communities and state law enforcement. That keeps everyone safe.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Michael Zanchelli