

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

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

My name is Emily Peterson, and I am a resident in Baltimore, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I've had the opportunity to volunteer with the Baltimore Symphony OrchKids program at a school in Highlandtown. I've seen how fear about ICE inhibited student attendance and participation to our after school program which is meant to support students academically and provide them with a creative outlet, which is incredibly important as participation in music as an elementary school student has been proven to have [significant cognitive and social benefits](#). Students should not be afraid to go to school or after school programming, and the intense fear fostered by ICE is obviously having detrimental psychological impacts on the families of these children.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. 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.

Maryland can prevent the violence that has occurred in places like Minneapolis and Chicago if we can proactively prevent ICE enforcement agreements.

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.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.