

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 John A Spillane, and I am a resident of Prince George's County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

Prince George's County currently has no 287(g) agreement, yet even so, the level of immigration agencies activity is disruptive. Let me tell you, this is no remote concern. A corner four blocks from my house has been the scene of an ICE kidnapping, not once but twice. Today I hear that one individual that was snatched from that corner several months ago has finally been released — he's had legal status all along. If this happens with no 287(g) agreement, I don't want to see what it's like with one.

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. When speaking with local business owners I have heard firsthand of these fears.

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.

John A Spillane