

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 **Ashima**, and I am a **resident in Baltimore, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I recently had an encounter with a masked ICE agent in the inner harbor. He was a fully masked, armed, and unidentifiable large man. I am a 55+ aged Brown woman. It was night-time and I was having dinner by myself at a restaurant in the area when he walked in and stared at me for a very long time. Nothing happened in the restaurant, but I was terrified of being abducted while walking in the dark to my car several blocks away. NO ONE should have to live with that fear or unsafety every, anywhere, and especially in the U.S.

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.

As a Brown woman who has experienced unwarranted threats by law-enforcement officers, I can attest to my hesitation in relying on law enforcement for safety. Once, I put words to the fear I felt at the behavior of an officer only to have him take two steps closer, inches from my face, and say, “I don’t give a fk.” As you can imagine, adding ICE agents to such experiences only prevents me from engaging with my community and relying on law enforcement to ensure my safety.**

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.

As an older, Brown woman, I need to know that I can count on law enforcement officers to help ensure my safety, not compromise it. I need to know that law enforcement officers and agents of deescalation, not instigators of violence.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.