

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB245

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Organization: Thomas Potyraj (self)

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 22, 2026

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

My name is Thomas Potyraj. I am a resident of Catonsville. I support SB0245 prohibiting the state from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement.

According to Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler: "The 287(g) is a program was brought in by President Bill Clinton in the '90s... [It was] accepted in by President Obama, a Democrat. But now it's evil because President Trump is in the White House."

These are not normal times. As part of the Trump administration's sweeping deportation efforts, ICE agents have been increasingly involved in violent confrontations with migrants and US citizens as part of the agency's shift to more aggressive immigration enforcement.

This is obvious from the recent killing of Renee Good, who was shot multiple times by Jonathan Ross, an ICE agent. President Trump falsely claimed that the ICE agent was recovering in the hospital after being run down by Renee Good. It would seem appropriate that an investigation be performed into the shooting. However, the Justice Department refused to do so. This would appear to be a coverup of events so that the agency can avoid accountability.

Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler says that "The 287(g) is not a law enforcement program". However, there is nothing to say that 287(g) does NOT apply to law enforcement. In these days of executive overreach, it is not unthinkable that boundaries can be shifted to meet the needs of the moment... particularly if they promote President Trump's agenda. Jonathan Ross was not held accountable for the shooting of Renee Good. Does this mean that law enforcement officers might not be held accountable for their actions, if they can claim that the actions were performed under the aegis of ICE?

Therefore, I support SB0245 prohibiting the state from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement.