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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0245, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement
Agreements – Prohibition

Testimony submitted on 20 January 2026

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr. & the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Ariana Giles

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is Ariana, I live in Odenton, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0245, Prohibition on Immigration Enforcement Agreements.

As reports of ICE activity in Maryland increase, I'm scared we'll soon see similarly violent stories to those we've heard from other states. This bill is timely and critically necessary. In addition to terrorizing communities around the country, national and local media outlets have reported human rights abuses, detentions of not just illegal immigrants, but immigrants in good legal standing, U.S. citizens, and even Native Americans. The percentage of detained people with criminal records by immigration officers is far below that of people with no criminal records and who are assessed with either a low or no threat level.

Additionally, immigration enforcement agreements with local law enforcement pull local officers away from more critical local safety needs. This bill will ensure our local officers do not waste time on politically motivated and racist agendas. Trust in local law enforcement is built slowly and can crumble easily. Passing this bill will show Marylanders that our leaders value that trust. I will feel safer if I know my local officers are available to respond to local emergencies and will focus on providing emergency care, de-escalating situations, and not adding to ridiculous immigration detention quotas.

Please let Maryland be a safer place for all of us. Prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements is one small step towards ensuring local law enforcement remains focused on local safety matters. I urge you to support SB 0245 and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement is focused on local matters.