

Testimony for Record

Thank you for allowing me to testify on an issue that is on many Marylander's minds right now.

My name is Stacey Kramer. I have been a resident of Maryland for 30 years. The opinions I express in this testimony are my own and do not represent the views of any organization I currently belong to or have previously belonged to.

Local agreements with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are costly and erode public trust in local enforcement. These agreements, often called 287(g), should be prohibited in Maryland.

287(g) agreements require local officers to be trained by ICE in either a local field office or an academy in South Carolina. While the federal government covers most of the cost associated with 287(g) training, local entities must account for the human resources necessary to maintain these agreements. These resources include administrative costs, onboarding new officers, or additional pay for overtime. When Maryland is already facing a tight budget, allowing participation in this program opens that state up to a worsening budget deficit.

What Maryland receives when its counties participate in the 287(g) program is not an efficient reduction in crime, but an antagonistic relationship between the state and its people. This is because multiple investigations, including some performed by the Department of Justice, have concluded that constitutional violations increased in counties which participated in the 287(g) program. These agreements lead to a public perception that local authorities will violate Maryland residents' rights, eroding public trust in law enforcement.

Nearby counties, such as Prince William County in Virginia, have tallied these costs against the promised benefits of the 287(g) agreements, and decided they were not worthwhile. I argue that Maryland should take one step further, and remove all 287(g) agreements by July of this year.