

SB 245

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Amy Waychoff

LD 18

Unfavorable

20 January 2026

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Amy Waychoff, and I have lived in Montgomery County since 1987. I am writing in opposition to SB 245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition. This bill would prohibit jurisdictions from entering into new 287g agreements and would terminate existing partnerships with ICE to alert the federal agency when they have jurisdiction over a criminal illegal alien detained in Maryland.

The 287g program is a well-documented, proven process that has existed under five different presidential administrations. Federal law already has jurisdiction over immigration.

Frederick County entered into a 287g agreement in 2008, and since then it has virtually eradicated the MS-13 gang. According to the county's sheriff, Chuck Jenkins, "we have removed 1,877 criminals out of this county, [and] we are a safe county because of it." (Maryland Matters, 30 December 2025) SB 245 would make his county less safe.

Recently, a Salvadoran gang member — in our county illegally — was convicted in 2023 of accessory to murder. After serving his sentence, the Montgomery County Circuit Court ignored ICE's immigration detainer and released him, requiring ICE to arrest him near his residence in Silver Spring. According to Delegate Chris Tomlinson (R-Frederick and Carroll), last summer an illegal alien

killed a 19-year-old Prince George's County woman. The murderer, Hugo Hernandez-Mendez, had been pulled over by U.S. Park Police in April and arrested for driving under the influence and other charges but was released. Tomlinson said that "maybe if they had a 287(g) program, maybe that guy would not have ever got out of that DUI and that girl would still be alive." (Maryland Matters, 14 November 2025) By releasing such individuals, you are not protecting "vulnerable communities;" you are protecting the criminals who often prey on those very same immigrant neighborhoods.

We need more cooperation with federal law enforcement, not less, to ensure our county remains a safe place to live and work. Thank you.

I therefore respectfully request that you give SB 245 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Amy Waychoff
Montgomery County, LD 18