

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

When I think about my ideal community, I imagine a clean, walkable neighborhood where neighbors can gather outside coffee shops and parks. When I think about a nightmare, I imagine armed, masked agents violently smashing someone's car window as people inside the car scream in fear. I don't want this nightmare scenario in my neighborhood. I don't want my family to witness it on an errand. I don't want to live in a state where this behavior is normal and accepted. My nightmare scenario has happened here in Maryland in the past year, and it is happening with increasing frequency. While SB245 does not control the action of federal agents, it is Maryland's opportunity to reject these unconstitutional tactics and take a stand. I hope you will be brave enough to protect our communities and neighbors.

Maryland's immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing \$8 billion in federal and \$4 billion in state taxes, providing \$2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power¹. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resulting "chilling effect" in Hispanic communities.² Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program"³ Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who "posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%."⁴

It is for these reasons that I encourage you to support SB245. Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Arielle Juberg
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¹ [Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council](#)

⁶ [The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails](#)

² [Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018](#)

³ [Charles Powers; 287\(g\): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1](#)

⁴ [The 287\(g\) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council](#)