

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Catherine Maslen and I am a resident and community member of Baltimore City. I am writing in support of SB 245- Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

I have been a primary care physician for over twenty years in Baltimore and have been in association with either as work colleagues, employees or patients with many productive members of the immigrant community. These are people that are currently experiencing extreme anxiety and we are at risk of losing these people who contribute so much to our city.

I support SB245 because immigration enforcement such as 287 (g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement they are less likely to report crimes, seek help or cooperate as witnesses—even if they are the victims.

Not only are we seeing wrongful detention and injury of people of color, we are also seeing so many peaceful protesters being targeted in our communities by I.C.E. violence which seems to be perpetrated with impunity.

Programs like 287g divert local resources away from community protection and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. This is terrible for our city and our Maryland communities in general

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Maslen