

Testimony regarding SB0245 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

This bill (SB245) would ban cooperation between local jails and federal authorities to identify and remove violent criminal illegal immigrants when those individuals are already behind bars, a place where law enforcement has a narrow, controlled opportunity to verify identity and criminal history.

It would prohibit local jails from running background checks or serving warrants in jail that would allow violent offenders, gang members, and sex offenders who are in the country illegally to be deported instead of released back onto Maryland streets.

Enactment of this bill will increase the likelihood of Federal authorities performing random traffic stops and neighborhood sweeps in Maryland.

Ending this cooperation doesn't make Maryland more compassionate; it makes Maryland less safe. A statewide poll of Maryland, commissioned by the Maryland Freedom Caucus, found:

84% support requiring local law enforcement to turn over illegal immigrants convicted of violent crimes, gang activity, or sexual offenses to federal authorities

That includes:

82% of Democrats

90% of Black voters

88% of women

Majorities in every region of the state

Please vote NO on SB0245. Thank You

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