



January 20, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chairman
and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **SB0245** – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition - **UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly opposes SB0245 to prohibit law enforcement's cooperation with the U.S. Immigration & Customs Service (ICE) through their 287(g) program.

Those jurisdictions and agencies currently participating in the 287(g) program can demonstrate the programs benefits.

Despite what immigration enforcement opponents would have you believe, participating in the 287(g) program:

- Makes our communities safer by keeping foreign nationals convicted of heinous crimes out of our communities,
- Safely and peacefully transfers those individuals to federal jurisdiction,
- Does not discriminate -- every detainee is asked the same series of questions irrespective of race or ethnicity.
- Keeps ICE enforcement out of our neighborhoods,
 - Prevents discrimination and targeting
 - Removes the possibility that other illegals with the subject at the time of pursuit and capture by ICE could be detained.
- Ensures due process via the immigration status categories (see below).
 - It is important to note that an illegal immigrant with an ICE detainer has already received due process of law as guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

There are 6 immigration status categories in the ICE database with varying degrees of enforcement -- (a) here legally - no problem, (b) bond and hearing date, (c) active detainer in place, etc. Prohibiting participation in the 287(g) program will deny Maryland law enforcement access to ICE's database and increase the possibility that an immigrant will be subjected to stronger enforcement tactics than necessary.

Please vote an **UNFAVORABLE** report for **SB0245**.

Sincerely,

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