

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

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

My name is **Katherine Vaughn**, and I am a resident of **Catonsville, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I am a concerned citizen who loves my friends, neighbors, and community members and wants them to live in peace and security, especially those who are immigrants and people of color.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 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 when they are victims.

I know people who are immigrants who are afraid to be out in public simply because they could be stopped and kidnapped by ICE agents. This includes both undocumented and naturalized citizens whose appearance alone could lead to unjust, unwarranted, or frankly illegal kidnapping, detention, and even deportation by ICE. Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Prohibiting 287(g) will protect local resources from being co-opted by federal ICE agents and operations, and slow down or prevent the excessive actions ICE has been taking around the country. We need to keep our families and neighborhoods intact and thriving, not living in fear.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.