

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 20, 2026

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

My name is Mary Margaret Dineen, and I am a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

As someone who has had a career in international development and the honor and privilege of living and working in numerous countries to support communities in building democratic institutions and practices, I know the importance of being able to trust that government agencies and actors will follow the rule of law. This unfortunately is less and less the case in with certain law enforcement agents acting unlawfully in our communities. Prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements will help mitigate and reduce their ability to act.

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 am aware of neighbors and visitors in my community being sought and snatched off the street and from their homes in horrible ways. It is hurting families and businesses in the area.

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.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Margaret Dineen