

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 Kathryn Parke, and I am a resident of Baltimore City and a business owner in Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

As a long-time resident of Baltimore City, I have seen how public mistrust of law enforcement creates problems for all of us in our communities. My observation is that in recent years this has been getting to less of a problem and I feel hopeful about improvements in safety. Many of us are working to build cooperation and communication in our various neighborhoods.

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.

In my previous work as a therapist in Baltimore City community mental health clinics, I have seen how fears around immigration status prevent people from accessing needed services, causing very vulnerable people to go without basic care and safety. Residents of our communities deserve to be able to access needed resources without fear of being terrorized or exploited because of their status. This is just basic decency.

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.

It seems to me that our local law enforcement are already doing important jobs to their communities and should not be enjoined to assist in the unnecessary and dangerous activities being committed by ICE.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathryn Parke, Baltimore Maryland