

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Tiffany Wandy and I am a resident of Churchville, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I care deeply about this issue because effective local policing depends on trust, clarity of purpose, and accountability. Local law enforcement officers are hired, trained, and funded to protect public safety, prevent crime, and serve their communities—not to enforce federal civil immigration laws. When local police are asked to take on immigration enforcement responsibilities, it blurs roles, stretches already limited resources, and undermines the core mission they are meant to fulfill.

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 communities where local law enforcement is perceived as an extension of federal immigration enforcement, residents often withdraw from civic life and avoid interaction with authorities altogether. This fear does not stay confined to undocumented individuals—it spreads to families, neighbors, and entire communities, making it harder for police to do their jobs and for communities to remain safe.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from community protection and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Prohibiting these agreements would allow local police to remain focused on the responsibilities they were hired to perform, while helping rebuild trust with the communities they serve. When residents trust that local officers are there to protect—not to deport—they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate in investigations, and seek assistance without fear. This trust is essential for effective policing and safer communities across Maryland.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.