

**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 Laura Atwood, and I am a longtime resident of Silver Spring, 20910. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I am a physical therapist who's worked in people's homes and in rehab hospitals, and my job requires me to see and connect with the humanity in everyone I treat. My kids went to MCPS schools and made friends with classmates from a variety of backgrounds, and they--and I--have valued those connections.

I support **SB 245** because ICE is out of control, with regular displays of lawlessness, cruelty, and violations of Constitutional and basic human rights. Once local law enforcement turns anyone at all over to ICE, that person's fate leaves local control. Turning someone over to ICE is akin to committing those atrocities oneself.

(An apt analogy is that if the courts have ruled that the U.S. may not deport someone back to the home country due to dangers there, and the U.S. deports the person to a third country that then deports the person to the home country--well, the U.S. has effectively violated court orders.)

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. 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.