

I strongly oppose SB0245.

This bill represents a misguided, one-size-fits-all mandate that strips local and state law enforcement of the discretion they need to serve our communities responsibly. A blanket prohibition on all immigration enforcement agreements is not thoughtful policy – it is an overreach that ignores real differences in local conditions, public safety needs, and operational realities across Maryland.

Our local officers and public employees are closest to the communities they serve. They are the ones who understand local risks, resource constraints, and public safety priorities. I firmly stand by my local law enforcement agencies to make the decisions they believe are necessary to protect our communities. The General Assembly should not substitute its judgment for theirs through an inflexible statewide ban.

Public safety policy should be guided by practical realities and local accountability – not ideological, top-down mandates. This bill moves Maryland in the wrong direction by removing tools and options from local officials who are best positioned to decide what works for their residents.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on local control and UNFAVORABLE on SB 0245.

v/r,

Russell Gilbert

St. Mary's County, MD