

Date of Hearing: 22 January, 2026

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TESTIMONY ON SB0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Prabu Selvam

My name is Prabu Selvam. I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I am a lifelong resident of Maryland, born and raised in Montgomery County. The neighborhood I grew up in was composed mostly of immigrants from all over the world. Our parents spoke different languages and came from different cultures, but we always had a sense of safety and belonging in our community.

That sense of community led me to serve in the U.S. military, become a public health physician, and now run for local office as a Montgomery County Council At-Large candidate. It is heartbreaking that today, our children of immigrants are made to live in fear in their own communities where they should feel safest. This leads to social isolation and disconnection, compromising their education, mental and physical health.

287(g) has led to anxiety and distrust across the nation and unfortunately in a growing number of jurisdictions across our state. The deputization of local law enforcement in a time when ICE is blatantly breaking the law and violating democracy and human rights, leads to communities that are LESS SAFE.

I think of the tens of thousands of children from immigrant families living in Montgomery County alone. Imagine living in a world where you and your parents are surrounded by local law enforcement, members of your own community, who are willing to cause you harm because of a 287(g) agreement with a rogue and cruel federal administration. Families would no longer trust local law enforcement to investigate domestic violence, abuse, neglect and other crimes that people suffer from in silence.

Working as an ER physician, I see these voiceless members of our community, and how often they depend on law enforcement to protect them and to connect them with resources. 287(g) undermines the protective role of law enforcement in communities and makes them an adversary. This makes all of us unsafe, especially the most vulnerable.

We should not allow 287(g) agreements anywhere in our state.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.