



## WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

P.O. BOX 870

SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21803-0870

410-548-4801

FAX: 410-548-4803

Bunky Luffman  
Director of Administration

Julie M. Giordano  
County Executive

Steven S. Lakin  
Assistant Director of Administration

January 20, 2026

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland Senate  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 0245 — Public Safety: Immigration Enforcement Agreements — Prohibition**

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill 0245 — Public Safety: Immigration Enforcement Agreements — Prohibition.

This legislation represents a dangerous overreach into local public safety authority and undermines the ability of counties to protect their residents using proven, lawful tools. It strips locally elected leaders and law enforcement professionals of the discretion to cooperate with federal immigration authorities when doing so serves the interests of public safety.

At its core, Senate Bill 0245 is not about immigration policy — it is about whether the State of Maryland will prohibit local governments from using common-sense law enforcement partnerships to remove dangerous criminals from our communities.

Programs such as 287(g) and similar cooperation agreements exist for one reason: to keep violent offenders, repeat criminals, and gang members off our streets. These agreements allow federal authorities to safely take custody of dangerous individuals inside secure detention facilities instead of conducting at-large arrests in neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools. Prohibiting these partnerships does not make Maryland safer — it does the opposite.

When federal officers are denied access to jails, they are forced into communities to locate offenders after release. That creates unnecessary risk for law enforcement officers, bystanders, and families. It turns controlled, secure transfers into unpredictable street operations.

Public safety decisions should be made by local leaders who know their communities, not by blanket mandates from Annapolis. Each county faces different challenges, crime patterns, and public safety realities. A one-size-fits-all prohibition ignores those realities and removes accountability from the officials directly responsible to voters.

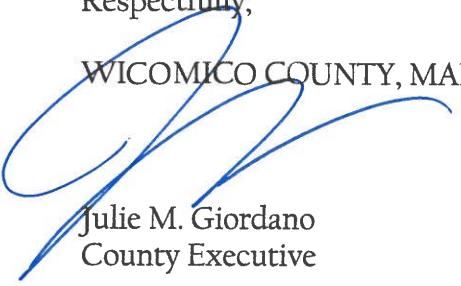
This bill also exposes the State to inevitable litigation by violating principles of local authority, intergovernmental cooperation, and public safety discretion. It invites conflict between state and federal governments while doing nothing to address violent crime, human trafficking, drug distribution, or gang activity.

Marylanders deserve leadership that prioritizes safety over politics.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to oppose Senate Bill 0245 and allow local governments and law enforcement agencies to continue using every lawful tool available to protect their communities.

Respectfully,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND



Julie M. Giordano  
County Executive