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Date: February 25, 2026

Re: SB 660 - Law Enforcement Response to Immigration Enforcement Action

Position: SUPPORT

To: Maryland Judicial Proceedings Committee

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is Major Neill Franklin (Ret.) and I am here today representing myself, having served a 34-year law enforcement career in the Baltimore Police Department and Maryland State Police, as well as representing the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP), where I was the executive director for an additional 10 years.

LEAP is an international nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who speak from firsthand experience serving in the justice system. Our mission is to make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety, addressing the root causes of crime, and working toward healing police-community relations.

Local and State police officers have taken an oath to protect and serve the people of Maryland. We took an oath to uphold and abide by the constitution of this state, and of the United States. As such, it is our duty to respond when the Constitutional rights of our community members are being violated.

We have unfortunately all seen video evidence of ICE and border patrol agents violating the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. Unlawful vehicle pursuits and stops, street detentions, excessive uses of force, and warrantless home invasions, are not legal under state and federal law, and cannot go unchecked. These constitutional violations have led to unnecessary injuries, the detention of legal citizens, and worst of all, the loss of human life.

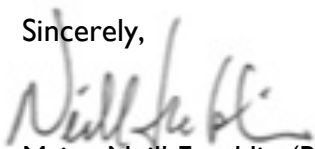
Thankfully, today, the committee has the opportunity to help protect the

constitutional rights of the people of Maryland through passing SB 660. This legislation would require local law enforcement agencies to actively observe and report on all federal immigration activities within their jurisdiction. The responding officer would record the interaction with their body-worn cameras and ensure that any individual in custody is safely detained and transferred. Responding officers would be required to file a detailed report for every interaction between federal immigration officers and people in Maryland. These reports would be stored for a minimum of four years and must document any uses of force or observed legal violations.

In my experience, transparency leads to increased community trust, which is a critical component of effective public safety. Trust affects whether people report crimes, comply with lawful orders, and cooperate during investigations. Policies that reinforce transparency in all law enforcement interactions—state, local, or federal—is key to maintaining public trust. This trust, in turn, fosters safer conditions for all officers and the communities they serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my law enforcement perspective in support of SB 660. I appreciate the committee's consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neill Franklin".

Major Neill Franklin (Ret.)

Maryland State Police