

TESTIMONY FOR SB245

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Presented to the Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

FAVORABLE

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

My name is Miriam Klapka, and I reside in St. Mary's County. I am writing in support of SB245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I support the prohibition of immigration enforcement agreements because they erode public trust in local law enforcement.

The community should be able to trust our local law enforcement: to interact with officers to report a crime, to provide a witness statement, to ask for help.

But in our current environment, an immigration enforcement agreement between our local law enforcement and DHS can cause fear and apprehension. Community members may be afraid that contact with local law enforcement will result in DHS attention.

It is understandable that people are fearful. We know that people may be detained on the slimmest of reasons; i.e., language, job, perceived ethnicity. We've also seen many news clips of aggressive, and in some cases, unlawful tactics being used to detain individuals.

Fear erodes trust and confidence and impedes cooperation. This situation can impact not only public safety, but also the local economy, and education.

I strongly support this bill, to prohibit immigration enforcement agreements, and to terminate any existing immigration enforcement agreements.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **FAVORABLE REPORT** on **SB245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.