

**Testimony in Opposition SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement  
Agreements – Prohibition**

January 20, 2026

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I respectfully urge you to oppose **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**. Please support the federal **287(g) program** and do not prohibit or terminate immigration enforcement agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These agreements are an important public safety tool that allow state and local law enforcement to cooperate with federal authorities when they have lawful custody of criminal illegal aliens detained in Maryland.

Federal and State Responsibility

Immigration law is federal law, and states should support, not undermine, its enforcement. Over the years, Maryland has demonstrated a lack of cooperation with ICE, and this approach has not resulted in improved public safety. That must change. A nation that does not enforce its laws cannot expect respect for the rule of law.

Consequences of Limited Cooperation

There have been reports of undocumented immigrants with criminal histories being released from local custody without ICE notification, only to later commit additional crimes. Tragic and preventable incidents can occur when agencies fail to work together. These situations highlight the real consequences of limited cooperation and poor communication.

The Need for Coordination

These unfortunate events underscore the necessity for clear coordination between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. By ensuring agencies work in concert, Maryland can take proactive steps to prevent further incidents and better protect its communities. Cooperation strengthens public safety and reinforces public trust by demonstrating a commitment to enforcing the law and safeguarding residents. This is a serious and ongoing public safety concern.

287(g) Program in Practice

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office, under Sheriff Chuck Jenkins, has demonstrated that participation in the 287(g) program supports effective law enforcement and enhances community safety. If ICE is not informed before criminal undocumented immigrants are released, it can lead to a greater risk to public safety.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 245 and to support continued cooperation with federal immigration enforcement through programs such as 287(g).

Respectfully,

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you vote **unfavorably** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brigitta Mullican, Montgomery County, Resident over 60 years, LD-17.