

## **Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable**

### **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**

#### **Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**January 22, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Fronda Cohen Ottenheimer and I am a resident in Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I believe every person living in the United States deserves the same rights, protections and security. I believe that the U.S. Constitution and the laws of Maryland should protect all the freedoms our country was built on.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I have walked through Highlandtown in east Baltimore on a beautiful, sunny Saturday, where the streets were deserted. Shops were empty. Posted signs warn of ICE raids, with information on individual rights should anyone be approached. There was fear and apprehension on the faces of the few people I passed.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.