

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 Joanne Bates Crimmins and I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

My father was a WWII pilot who fought for democracy in our country and around the world. My mother, an immigrant, survived the Blitzkrieg. They would both be ashamed of what our country has turned into, and how our freedoms are being taken away from us. They instilled in me the power of community, the value of family, and to be a good citizen. They also taught me that we are a nation of immigrants. These are my values today. And the values of all of my friends, family, neighbors and colleagues.

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. When people are afraid to open their doors, afraid to go to work, worried about their friends, family, and anxious about their community, we have failed to keep everyone safe.

My friend's sister-in-law was here in the US legally. Seven months ago, she was detained, sent to three camps, which were not fit for any human. If this happened to my sister, I do not know what I would do. She leaves behind two children under the age of 6, a boy and a girl. These children are US citizens. Now, they are in the sole care of their father, the primary breadwinner. To ease their fears, he told the children that their mama was away, "working," and would come home soon. The oldest, a boy, said, "Dad, when Mama comes back home, please tell her she cannot go to work anymore." We all know that she is not coming back.

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.

We want Frederick to be a safe, thriving, and open community. We want businesses to succeed, for the arts to flourish, for our children to feel safe going to school.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joanne Bates Crimmins, military daughter, Frederick resident