

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 Lahiruni Dias, and I am a resident of **Montgomery County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

Law enforcement's role in any community is to uphold law and order, with the ultimate goal of protecting the community from harm. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), whether it be as far as Minneapolis, MN or as close as Gaithersburg, MD, **have shown considerable disregard for law and order**, often resorting to racially-profiled targeting and violence toward undocumented immigrants, citizens, and even lawful observers. Montgomery County and the state of Maryland is a community defined by rich racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity, and I have always been proud to call it home. NO ONE deserves to be separated from their family. I'm tired of waking up to bad news and dealing with constant waves of anxiety about the safety of my neighbors, colleagues, and family members. This is an apocalyptic situation, one people will read in their history textbooks years from now and wonder, "how could we have ever let this happen?" But the reality is that we still have the power to prepare and protect our communities through this hearing and the passage of this bill.

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.

Since the August 2025 Executive Order detailing D.C. Metropolitan Police's collaboration with Immigration Enforcement, Maryland residents have feared the same policies being enacted in their state. According to an [SSRS Opinion Poll](#) conducted for CNN earlier this week, 51% of Americans believe that ICE presence is making cities less safe. An additional partnership between local law enforcement and immigration agents would only increase feelings of fear and ultimately aid in greater barriers to living normal lives (simple activities like going to the grocery store, performing work duties as usual, and spending time with friends and family have become worlds harder). Carrying a passport around has become the new norm, and "documents" and "papers" are seemingly what defines humanity.

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.

Again, the job of local law enforcement will always be to protect the communities they serve, and collaboration with ICE would aid in the deterioration of trust in our community, along with a myriad of other problems such as mental health emergencies, a drop in school attendance, and greater financial strain on residents. **I am confident that the great state of Maryland will make the right choice, one backed by countless residents, to join other states like California, Illinois, and Connecticut in prohibiting the 287(g) program from ever hurting our community.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**. Thank you for your time and consideration.