

Thursday, January 22, 2026

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**TESTIMONY ON SB0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition**

**TO:** Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Michelle Feit

My name is Michelle Feit, and I am a resident of District 20 in the Montgomery Knolls neighborhood of Silver Spring. **I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.**

I would like to thank the Chair, my District 20 Senator Will Smith, for his longstanding commitment and support of ending 287(g) agreements in Maryland. I grew up in Columbia and attended the University of Maryland for both undergraduate and graduate school, and after living in the District of Columbia for several years I am thrilled that we have found such a wonderful community in Silver Spring in which to put down roots and raise our almost 2-year-old child.

The biggest threat to our community right now is ICE. They are terrorizing immigrant Marylanders, particularly in our neighborhood, which has become one of the most targeted areas in the state for ICE enforcement. It often feels helpless watching ICE abduct our neighbors and community members, so it is imperative that our state legislature takes whatever actions are within our control to protect our community members.

One such action is ending 287(g) agreements, which allow local law enforcement to deputize local police to act as ICE agents, enabling them to detain people based only on their immigration status. The number of Maryland counties with 287(g) agreements has grown from 3 to 8 just in the last year, as local sheriffs demand to collaborate with the Trump administration. While I am glad that Montgomery County is not one of them, our neighbors should be able to travel freely throughout the state, particularly to neighboring Frederick County, without additional fear of being profiled and detained.

While prohibiting local and state 287(g) agreements does not stop ICE agents themselves, it is essential that the General Assembly takes this step to prevent local collaboration with this brutality. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.**