

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 Christina Getrich, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I'm writing in my capacity as a scholar and researcher of immigration and resident of this state. Immigrants make up more than a third of our state population and an important component of our communities. I grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland surrounded by immigrant friends and neighbors who enriched my childhood and inspired me to focus on immigration as a topic of inquiry as a graduate student and now professor. My research over the last 30 years has documented the deleterious impacts of immigration enforcement on local communities, focusing specifically on youth in mixed-immigration status families.

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.

My present research on immigration enforcement in Maryland shows that starting in January 2025, immigrant enforcement fear has surged, having a negative effect on school and work attendance, food and housing security, and health care access, as immigrants and their family members avoid leaving the house whenever necessary. This has a profound ripple effect even on U.S. citizens and permanent residents in mixed-status families.

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.

Maryland has an opportunity to improve public safety and trust with immigrant and allied communities with the passage of SB 245 and should send a strong signal in support of our immigrant neighbors.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.