

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL – IN SUPPORT**

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

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**January 22, 2026**

**TO:** Chair William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Paula Casagrande, and I am a resident of and own a business in Havre de Grace, MD. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

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 personally live in fear right now. I have a Hispanic last name. That ICE will show up. And I have a nephew of mixed race that is now carrying his birth certificate with him now. We should not have to live like this in the United States of America!

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.

This is the Feds program we should not be using our resources to do their jobs.

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

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Paula Casagrande