

**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 Anthony Caruso, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I personally know people who are terrified of leaving their homes because of ICE. These people are legal US citizens, but that sadly might not be enough to prevent them from being separated from their homes.

Programs like 287(g) only serve to exacerbate this issue because they allow this fear to extend to local law enforcement. Under 287(g) agreements, when people interact with local law enforcement, they fear racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention – and this is in addition to whatever fears they would have otherwise when dealing with law enforcement.

Because of these added fears, people are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses, even when they are victims. This makes our local law enforcement less effective. We need to regain trust in our local law enforcement, and prohibiting programs like 287(g) would be a small, but necessary, step in regaining that trust.

Also, even if you support what ICE is doing, programs like 287(g) are still a negative impact on our community's law enforcement. These programs overburden law enforcement members with the additional task of enforcing federal immigration law. This should not be their responsibility. Many members of law enforcement did not sign up for this, don't want this, and don't have the skills or resources to handle this properly. Programs like 287(g) are blatant misappropriations of our resources.

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

Thank you for your consideration.