

Senate Bill 245:
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings
January 22, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eileen Zeller. I live in Clarksville, MD (District 9). I am writing in support of SB 245.

I feel viscerally about this issue. Although my parents and grandparents survived the horrors of Nazi Germany, the majority of our family—dozens of their brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins—were murdered in concentration camps. Before that, they were terrorized in the streets, in their workplaces, in their schools, and in their homes by Brown Shirts and the Gestapo. (*Please forgive the fact that I used this same paragraph in my testimony for SB1, which is also being heard by JPR today.*)

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement partnerships like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and make everyone less safe. When people are afraid of law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs such as 287(g) have been linked to racial profiling and wrongful detention, and they divert local resources away from community safety into federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB245.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen Zeller
Clarksville (District 9)