

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0660, Public Safety - Law Enforcement - Response to
Immigration Enforcement Actions**

Chair William C. Smith, Jr. & Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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My name is Anne Manuel. I've lived in Silver Spring for forty years. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I'm writing to express my strong support for SB0660 Public Safety - Law Enforcement - Response to Immigration Enforcement Actions.

Federal immigration agents have been operating all over the country as if our laws did not apply to them. Masked unidentified agents terrorize our communities with no regard for basic American protections such as due process, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures.

Violence seems to be an essential part of immigration agents' *modus operandi*; they actually seem to delight in using excessive force. ICE's calling card is the smashed car window, the mother thrown on the ground, the children crying in fear or choking on pepper spray. Videos of brutal apprehensions are posted on government social media accounts, as if for entertainment.

Our state needs to make clear that we do not accept these lawless tactics. We need to impose a price on agents who would terrorize the most vulnerable members of our community as if their lives did not count. Allowing such crimes to continue unchecked invites further abuses. By requiring Maryland law enforcement to respond to reports of misconduct during immigration operations and creating reports subject to the Public Information Act, SB0660 would be an important step towards accountability.

Unaccountable law enforcement is the essence of a police state. The Maryland House and Senate are considering several important bills that would work to rein in the abuses that have characterized the administration's immigration enforcement practices. SB0660 would be an important complement to these legislative initiatives. For that reason, I support a favorable report on SB0660.

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