

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

We **MUST** take any action possible to defend the lives and safety of immigrants – and all people of color regardless of immigration status – unjustly racially targeted by the corrupt operations of ICE and the White House. It shouldn't take a personal experience with immigration enforcement officers to know that what is happening in our communities is inhumane and disgusting. Children are afraid to go to school. People of color are afraid to leave their houses to go to work or buy groceries. People protesting unlawful ICE operations are being murdered in the streets.

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.

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 not about right or left – this is **RIGHT** or **WRONG**. Defund ICE, stop the spread of terror and violence, and stand **UP** to the despicable people tearing families and communities apart to serve their white supremacist agenda. Support for this bill is one small step toward a safer, kinder Maryland. Let us be leaders in the country and follow our neighbor Delaware's example!

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.