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Testimony in Support of SB 245-Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements–Prohibition

January 20th, 2026

To: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Michael DeLong and I am a resident of District 20. I strongly urge your support for SB 245, which would protect immigrants by banning 287(g) agreements with Immigration, Customers, and Enforcement (ICE).

Over the past ten years I became active in local organizing and advocacy and until recently I served as President of the Montgomery County Young Democrats. I am a member of the Reform Jewish synagogue Temple Shalom, serve on my synagogue's Tikkun Olam Committee, and have participated in many Jewish organizations and events.

Montgomery County has large numbers of immigrants–they are our colleagues, co-workers, neighbors, and family members. Almost one third of our county's population was born outside the United States. Many of these immigrants are undocumented and contribute to our economy and society. Other counties also have lots of immigrants who work and live just like everyone else; often these immigrants have left poverty and oppression and are seeking the American Dream, trying to make a better life for themselves.

But currently many of these immigrants are afraid and at serious risk of being abused or mistreated. One of these reasons are the 287(g) agreements that several Maryland counties have with ICE. These agreements give local law enforcement the power to enforce immigration law, which normally they cannot do. Under the agreements, police officers can identify, arrest, and prosecute undocumented immigrants. Often the residents are imprisoned until ICE comes and deports them.

These agreements are cruel and harmful to immigrants–plus they harm crimefighting by scaring people, who are then unwilling to go to the police for help. Currently ICE, under the direction of President Trump and Stephen Miller, is behaving like a lawless agency. It has arrested and imprisoned people without due process, denied immigrants their basic rights, tortured people at secret facilities, and shot and killed Americans. Many of the immigrants whom ICE has kidnapped are upstanding members of their community, have lived in the United States for decades, and have done nothing wrong.

I support efforts to fight crime, especially violent crime. However, ICE is operating like a secret police force, with masked thugs beating and kidnapping people. There is no rule of law, no accountability, and no efforts to investigate abuses and hold ICE agents accountable. Trump

administration officials have refused to take any action, and instead praise the agents who committed these crimes, insisting that they did nothing wrong.

Under these circumstances, no Maryland county should cooperate with ICE. In order to protect the freedom and lives of their residents, counties should refuse any cooperation with the agency, and consider arresting and prosecuting its agents for kidnapping. The 287g agreements, which are currently in force in Frederick County and other counties, help perpetuate these abuses and harm innocent people. They also do nothing to genuinely fight crime or keep communities safe. A comparative analysis of crime statistics across three Maryland counties found that 287(g) programs didn't make people safer.

SB 245 prohibits Maryland, county governments, county sheriffs, or any other agencies or police from entering into 287(g) agreements and requires that existing agreements be ended on or before July 1st, 2026. This bill will help protect law-abiding immigrants against ICE kidnappings and abuses. As Martin Luther King Jr said, "noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good." And just as the Hebrew midwives refused to cooperate with Pharaoh in his oppression of the Israelites, we should refuse to cooperate with ICE right now.

I urge a favorable report on SB 245. Please contact me at michaeldelong94@gmail.com with any questions.