

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 Debra Browne, and I am a resident of Leisure World in Silver Spring, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I care about this issue because our communities are being torn apart by federal agents swooping in, carrying off, detaining, hurting, and even killing our citizens. Although killing has not yet occurred in Maryland, if things continue the way they are, it is inevitable. In cases of criminal immigrants, there are lawful ways to pursue and detain them, as there are for criminal citizens, including search warrants and proper procedures.

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.

I protest in front of Leisure World with others of like mind, against ICE, against the current administration's policies, and for compassion. Our crowds range from 300 (on short notice) to over 1,800. Drivers pass by and honk and wave in support. We on occasion see a raised middle finger but that is far, far overshadowed by the overall support from the community.

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.

Racial profiling and discrimination are immoral and should be relics of the past. Wrongful detention is heinous. We are headed to a police state where people must constantly carry their papers and are subject to being snatched off the street if they don't have them, or if they have the wrong ones. In addition, if our immigrant community is terrified of approaching law enforcement when they have been wronged, a vital trust has been compromised. As it is, students are staying home from school and people are not going to stores, even grocery stores, for fear of being abducted and detained. This is not good for our residents or our economy.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Debra Browne, 3500 Forest Edge Dr., #1G, Silver Spring, MD 20906