

**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 Ishai Barnoy, and I am a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I care about prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with ICE first and foremost because of the horrifying images and stories out of the takeover in Minneapolis, most recently, but also from previous instances all around the nation. It really looks like a lawless descent of Trump's personal thugs as a way to punish people who do not support him. But it's more than that, it finally obviously looks like this is what ICE and by extension the whole DHS was meant to be: A tool of state terror, to be applied not only against innocent immigrants, but also citizens.

Being that I, myself, am an immigrant and a naturalized citizen, I am terrified by and furious about ICE. I urge you to support any effort to allow the state of Maryland to stand up to that department of violent goons and to protect the residents of Maryland by opposing ICE in this way but also any possible way.

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.

Growing up in Maryland, before I was naturalized, I remember seeing not only the joy that immigrants felt in finding community and belonging in the state of Maryland but also the caution borne from incipient fear. The initial creation of ICE and the recent activities of that organization has taken these fears to their logical conclusion, creating concentration camps where horrifying acts are being committed against immigrants, and kidnapping innocent people off the streets to institute a state of widespread terror.

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.

To decouple law enforcement from ICE would be a major step in protecting the immigrant communities of Maryland, as well as the citizens who share in the overall community alongside these immigrants. With law enforcement present in courts, in hospitals, and other places, immigrants could resume the normal operation of their lives, and the state of terror can finally be brought to an end.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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