

**January 22, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jan Kleinman and I am a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

As a Jewish-American, I am keenly aware that just 2 generations ago, my own ancestors were unwelcome in their home countries. They were told they did not belong, faced hatred and discrimination, and in the worst cases, were separated unwillingly from their families. Thanks to the United States, which allowed them to settle and make homes here, my family survived. I am here today because this country gave my ancestors safe refuge. Others deserve this same chance. No one deserves to be a target of discrimination.

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 visited my favorite Mexican restaurant last weekend. It was hauntingly empty. The owner said his usual customers are afraid to come out to eat lunch.

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.

Baltimore City has plenty of neighborhoods where gun fire is too common and people fear their neighbors' anger. Already, many Baltimoreans are afraid to visit my downtown neighborhood; they fear gun violence. We all need our police to be focused on keeping neighborhoods safe, not on supporting federal deportation efforts.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jan Kleinman

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