

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 **Janelle Wong**, and I am a **resident of Montgomery County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I am writing in my capacity as a scholar and researcher of Asian American Studies and as an Asian American resident of this state. Immigrants account for more than a third of our state population. Immigrants from Asia make-up more than half of the foreign-born population in Howard County, and more than a third in Montgomery, Carroll, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel Counties. And, about 1 out of every 7 Asian immigrants is undocumented.

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.

Asian Americans have seen anti-immigrant sentiment hit our communities hard in the past. Chinese migrants to the U.S. were the first “undocumented” immigrants in U.S. history, arriving under Chinese Exclusion policies in the late 1880s. And our communities were subject to raids, deportations, and racial profiling during that period.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.