

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 Dr. Helen Angela Mezzomo, and I am a Crownsville resident, Anne Arundel County Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I work with staff and students who are regularly in fear of being abducted off the street, regardless of their legal status. Family members are left to wonder where their parents, siblings, or other members have been taken and if they will be seen again. The “process” followed by ICE agents clearly violate the law and any semblance of humanity.

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 have had students ask me if I would hide or protect them if ICE came for them in school, while they were go to/from school, or if I could help them find their family members.

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.

People, especially US citizens should not be approached by groups of armed, unidentified men in masks. Their behavior exemplifies why women choose the bear.

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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