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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements -

Prohibition

2026-01-20

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr. & the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: ida kenna, Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America,

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is ida kenna, I live in Baltimore City, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0245, Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I.C.E. has always been an unlawful agency that terrorizes undocumented people, many of whom deserve legal status but have lost it due to bureaucratic dysfunction. Every resident of our country, and our state, deserves the same rights as those of us who are citizens.

But importantly, under this current federal regime, immigration enforcement has become explicitly an ethnic cleansing campaign. Various federal agencies and officials have amply provided evidence of this intention in public statements, including all over social media, often using (neo-)Nazi and otherwise far-right nationalist imagery and tropes in doing so, such as the 14 words, the word "remigration" etc.

This has also been demonstrated in practice. ICE raids have had cities in the form of surges and even occupations, at times including backup from federally deployed National Guard troops against the consent of the states being invaded. While this is a breach of the rights of undocumented migrants as well as citizens, so has been their "policing" -- citizens in many cities have been arrested for being people of color and, as far as the racist gestapo are concerned, "looking like immigrants".

As a trans woman, I'm also concerned for the steps this massive expansion and overtly fascist change of program that ICE has undergone takes us toward fascist federal eugenics goals, such as removing trans people from public existence, and the same for many disabled, autistic, Black, and other people they consider "degenerate". Along with punishing people, primarily women, for seeking abortions and contraceptive care.

Please let Maryland be a safer place for all of us than elsewhere in our country. Prohibiting our police from enacting and supporting ICE's racist goals is one small step towards ensuring the people wearing those badges are discharging their duties faithfully. I urge you to support SB 0245 and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement is being held to the highest standards of conduct and are focused on their duties.