

Thursday, January 22

Miriam Kraft  
Baltimore, MD 21224

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition**

**TO:** Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Miriam Kraft

**My name is Miriam Kraft. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.**

As a member of Beth Am Synagogue and the Canton Community Association's anti-racism committee, both in Baltimore City, I have a strong sense of justice, instilled in me by my family and my faith. I believe it is unjust not to provide due process, to separate families, and to harass and arrest people based on skin color and other immaterial grounds. I do not want to see our state and local law enforcement become an extension of unjust Federal actors through 287(g) and other agreements. Thus, I support passage of SB0245 because it takes an important step in making sure that Maryland does not enable the brutal tactics of the current Federal authorities.

The Bible says, "Justice, justice shall you pursue" (Deut. 16:11). The Talmud (the Jewish commentary on Biblical writings) explains that the word "justice" is repeated because it is not just the *ends* of justice that should be pursued, but the *means* as well. The 287(g) agreements work against those means by extending the use of harsh tactics with little regard for citizenship, family status, or other relevant factors. My neighborhood is adjacent to one with a large concentration of Latino residents as well as Latino markets and restaurants. Recently, these business owners have seen a drop in customers, who are afraid to leave their homes as ICE activity increases in the city. Attendance at church and school has suffered as well.

As a native Marylander, I am proud of the moral leadership of my state regarding immigration. Passing this bill will maintain that stature by preventing state and local governments from becoming an arm of a demonstrably unjust system. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.**