

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 Mary Elizabeth Kaiser, and I am a resident of Clarksville in Howard County. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I have been horrified by the immigration enforcement (ICE) events of the past year. The initial atrocities of mistakenly detaining Kilmar Abrego Garcia and deporting him to the infamous CECOT prison in El Salvador and the President Trump Administration of the United States Government refusing for months to secure his release and return to the United States which was then followed by retaliation on Abrego Garcia by the US government. Then there were the raids of homes and apprehension of immigrants with green cards to CECOT. There was and is still is an ongoing practice of ambushing law abiding immigrants as they appear for their immigration court hearings. Then there was the escalation of events in Chicago where agents rappelled from a helicopter in the dark of night to raid an apartment complex, knocked down doors and hurled flash-bang grenades. They arrested 37 immigrants, most of them Venezuelans, who authorities say were in the country illegally. A ProPublica investigation, however, has found little evidence to support the government's claims. Agents also zip-tied and, for several hours, detained many (partially dressed) U.S. citizens outside in the cold. Then in an unbelievable (if it weren't for the eyewitness videos) escalation of ICE actions, an ICE agent (who was under no physical threat) deliberately shot a peaceful, law abiding US citizen in the head! Instead of investigating the agent who shot the United States citizen, Renee Good, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Attorney General's office are defending this action and making claims in clear contradiction to events portrayed on video.

These are horrific events and miscarriages of justice by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents who are NOT protecting US citizens and are depicted detaining individuals who can clearly be heard yelling in videos that they are US citizens or that they are in this country legally. ICE is making the United States America, and that includes Maryland, dangerous for citizens and those here legally. Legal immigrants and citizens alike are afraid to take their children to school, buy groceries, go to church for fear of being ambushed and illegally detained, deported, or shot in the head. We cannot cooperate or sanction this behavior. It endangers our friends, families, and neighbors. ICE creates fear in our communities and destabilizes neighborhoods. They make individuals less likely to report crimes they may witness out of fear of repercussions – even when they are the victim. My life and the lives of my family are less safe due to the presence of ICE in Maryland.

I call on the State of Maryland to protect its citizens and residents and to prohibit the cooperation of state agencies with immigration enforcement as outlined in SB245

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary Elizabeth Kaiser