

Date of Hearing: 1/20/2026

Rebecca Goldfinger
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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: Rebecca Goldfinger

My name is Rebecca Goldfinger. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I am a member of a synagogue in Laurel, Maryland as well as a resident of Montgomery County. I care about this bill because of the Jewish commandment to love the stranger, because of my personal background as the descendent of immigrants, because of my own ethical code, and because of my experiences with newcomers to this country for whose safety and well-being I am very concerned because of the current political climate and 287g agreements.

My Jewish upbringing tells me to “welcome the stranger.” My great grandparents and great-great grandparents were immigrants who came to this country from Europe seeking a better future. And my own personal ethical code demands that I treat other human beings with respect.

As a member of my synagogue, I have had the opportunity to work with two refugee families, and I have also volunteered with CASA, a group that aids immigrant families in Maryland. In the current political environment, I am afraid that immigrant families I know might be targeted by ICE and detained or even deported, regardless of their immigration status.

For all of these reasons, I support SB#0245, which would prohibit the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement and would require the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before July 1, 2026.

I believe that abolishing 287g agreements in the State of Maryland would create a safer environment for our immigrant neighbors. They would be less likely to be detained and/or deported by ICE, if local police were not required to collaborate with ICE. This would also protect our immigrant neighbors because they would be more willing to contact police if they were in an emergency situation where a police presence was needed to protect them.

In sum, because of my values, Jewish and otherwise, and because of my life experience and relationships with immigrants, I believe that this bill would protect immigrants in our state. In light of this, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.