

Written Testimony for SB0245, FAVORABLE, Spear

Dear Senators,

We are writing to express our support for SB0245 - Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

Last year, when Garrett County Sheriff Bryson signed a 287g agreement with ICE, 100 people showed up for a meeting with the sheriff to voice our concern about that agreement. Although Sheriff Bryson reassured everyone about his good intentions, we remain concerned about the erosion of community support for law enforcement due to the current actions and attitudes of ICE. The simple fact is that ICE wreaks havoc with communities and with local police wherever they go. They are unprofessional, insufficiently trained, and often fail to adhere to standard policing procedures.

Before Maryland counties agree to work with ICE, the Federal Government must remove face coverings from ICE agents; ICE agents must be clearly identified with name badges; agents must use bodycams to record their interactions with civilians; all searches and detentions must be supported by warrants signed by a judge; and ICE should not carry any weapons — they can ask local police for assistance if they feel the need to make an arrest. ICE is important for immigration enforcement, but its current techniques are damaging the public's support for its efforts and for law enforcement generally.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB0245 for the well-being of Maryland as a whole and to maintain our trust in and respect for law enforcement. Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Bob and Mary Helen Spear, Swanton, Maryland