

SB 245--Public Safety

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Marilyn Carlisle. I live in Baltimore City. I am writing in support of **SB 245--Public Safety--Immigration Enforcement Agreements--Prohibition.**

I support SB 245 largely as a result of my years of working with the immigrant community of Baltimore. I have learned to appreciate the contribution made to our City and the country by the people I have worked with and contacted through my professional educational involvement. I realize how, after a heart-wrenching decision made to leave a home country, they dedicated themselves to improving their family's education, economy and contribution to those around them. I find them to be generous to their neighbors and acquaintances, loving to their families, and appreciative of anything they receive from this society.

I support SB 245 because it makes us ALL safer. When people know that police officers will cooperate and/or report to ICE, they are less likely to report crimes, whether they are a victim or a witness. This undermines public safety for all of us. Which of us would not be filled with fear at the idea of being treated personally as we've seen our countrymen treated in the last few weeks?

Cooperating with agreements such as 287(g) may put us in a situation of racial profiling, discrimination and wrongful detention--or, as we've seen on our television screens, violence. Programs like this also divert public resources away from protecting communities.

Prohibiting these agreements would encourage the trust of immigrants and those who look like they might be immigrants and improve the safety of all of us.

I therefore ask for your favorable vote for SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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