

SB0245

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Testimony before Senate Proceedings Committee, January 20 2026

Position: Favorable

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, my name is Benjamin Cruz and I live in SD 41, in Mt. Washington. I write today in support of SB0245, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

In my view, this legislation must be put into effect at the earliest possible date as agreements between Maryland law enforcement entities and I.C.E.

- Encourage racial and ethnic profiling by our law enforcement
- Disproportionately impact Black and Latino communities and individuals
- Demonstrably target individuals with low-level or no criminal history, and
- Creates a climate of fear that harms the relationship between law enforcement and local communities.
- Adds expense to the operations of law enforcement entities – expenses largely paid for by local taxpayers.

Statewide, 92% of 287(g) detainees were for people with either no criminal conviction or a minor misdemeanor such as a traffic violation. Clearly, that does not comport with 287(g)'s purported goal of improved public safety, focusing on violent criminals.

This legislation, by itself, will not afford citizens of Maryland with all the protections needed in the face of overreach by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and related agencies but it removes Maryland law enforcement entities from a position of being collaborators in such flagrant attacks on the rights of Americans in our state.

I respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

Benjamin Cruz

Mount Washington, MD