

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 Makoto Sumida, and I am a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I have worked as an English for Speakers of Other Languages teacher for CASA for a decade. Over the years, I have come to recognize the depth of my students' incredible determination and dedication to being productive and caring members of our community, despite the challenges they face. I am appalled that the Trump administration has facilitated and indeed encouraged the flouting of due process and democratic values, especially in the practices of immigration enforcement agents.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I have witnessed an ICE agent detaining an immigrant worker just a block away from the center where I teach English. I was unable to stop and record the incident because I feared that the agent would note my destination and retaliate against the workers and students who depend on the center for classes and other resources. I have listened as my students describe how their friends, neighbors, and relatives have been taken into detention during routine check-ins. Every day I am afraid that one of my dear friends will be taken away by ICE.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Makoto Sumida