

Favorable: SB245 to ban 287(g)

My name is Jesse Reilly and I am writing as a member of the Baltimore Rapid Response Network, a coalition put together to connect passionate members of the community with ways they can make a difference in causes they are passionate about. I have seen firsthand how powerful community can be. This is why all of us with BRRN want to testify that we are favorable with SB245 and urge our state government to ban any agreement with local law enforcement and immigration enforcement. All over the news we are seeing horrific events where immigration enforcement are given free reign to carry out their interpretation of the law. These agents are overly reactive, disturbingly undertrained, and are clearly making the cities where they have a large presence less and less safe for all. Creating an environment where our local law enforcement are required to partner with these groups makes us even less safe, as their whims and power are unchecked. People deserve to feel safe on their way to work, studying, dropping their kids off at school, worshipping, seeking medical attention, and seeking help from local authorities when they themselves are victims of crimes. How could someone who may be racially profiled call the police after having been robbed, mugged, or assaulted, if they know the police are going to turn them in? Even those not at risk for having their immigration status questioned will lose trust in local law enforcement, and people already likely to be victims of crimes become even more vulnerable targets. It is simply better for the state of Maryland to ban 287(g), and to cancel any potential existing agreements with local enforcement and immigration enforcement.

