

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 David Atkinson, and I am a resident of Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

ICE is a morally corrupt agency, and it operates based on White supremacist ideals. It attempts to legally and illegally violate people's human rights and attempts to do so without accountability. It needs to be abolished because it does more harm to American culture than good. It aims to bully non-white Americans and even White Americans who support civil rights for racial minorities. For the purpose of this bill, I support the first step of prohibiting the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement; and requiring the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before July 1, 2026.

Partnering with ICE is bad for business, too. Just look at Minnesota.

The detention centers are also a mark of their willingness to violate human and civil rights. There have been reports of deaths and abuse in them.

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.

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.