

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 Diane Nemett, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, MD. **I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and in all Maryland citizens and undermine public safety for everyone. We have all seen the draconian, unaccountable tactics being used for unlawful detention, arrest, deportation and killing not only of immigrants but of US citizens. This is not what our country, our state, our county is about, It is not a partisan issue. It is a broad human and economic issue. It is critical that our state be strong and that our representatives at the county and state levels use your power to not be complicit with these illegal, often inhumane, actions. Rather than making us safer, ICE is fomenting chaos and fear.

Recently, the foreign-born spouse of an American citizen when attending the final step for approval of permanent residency status, and after receiving approval of that status, ICE came into that interview, shackled and took him away from his family and lawyer,

Being complicit in these actions, and worse, undermines the trust in our own law enforcement officers. 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.

We cannot allow our sheriffs, police and National Guard to be used as agents of ICE. This is not only morally reprehensible but will cost our county/state and county/state taxpayers money and resources which should be used for the purposes of public safety for which they are designed. Programs like 287(g) 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 be strong and issue a **favorable report on SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

