

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 **Natasha Lesser** and I am a **resident of Baltimore, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I watch in horror as ICE terrorizes the people of Minnesota and elsewhere. This is not immigration enforcement, this is Trump's Gestapo. My mother-in-law escaped the Nazis – masked gestapo like ICE—in 1938 in Lithuania with her family to make a better life here in the United States. That value is what embodies the United States—welcoming others to this land of opportunity. Not harassment and cruelty.

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.

Unless you are an indigenous person or are descendants of people brought here against their will, we are all immigrants here, including Trump, Noem, Vance, and all the other people responsible for the unnecessary cruelty of ICE. Therefore ICE should not be allowed in Maryland—or anywhere in the US for that matter. Let's make Maryland an example of true American values, not of hatred and cruelty and terror.

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.

I as a proud Marylander and American and as a descendant, like most of us, of people of who have immigrated to the US for a better life, don't support ICE's hateful, cruel, racist, and unnecessary deportation efforts.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Natasha Lesser