

January 20, 2026

Henry Gordon
Silver Spring, MD 20910

TESTIMONY ON SB#0245 - POSITION: (FAVORABLE)
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Henry F. Gordon

My name is Henry Gordon. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

I am a retired economist who spent my professional career working in developing countries. Currently I am involved in Park Hills and Seven Oaks neighborhood associations, and over the past several years have volunteered with Silver Spring Village, helping provide services to local residents aging in place.

My grandfather and my grandmother's family left Lithuania and East Prussia in the late 19th century to migrate to the United States. My grandparents were hard-working, proud citizens who put high value on an American political creed of equal opportunity, pluralism and toleration. This is part of my moral and political inheritance and one reason I respect the US Constitution and its 14th Amendment, which says: "No State shall ...deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws". Given my family's experience, I place great weight on the fact that the term "any person" includes immigrants, whether documented or not.

As part of the federal government's mass deportation campaign, ICE violates the 14th amendment's provisions every day. This invasion destabilizes communities, breaks families apart and makes minority populations targets for racial profiling. I see the effects in Silver Spring. When I tried to distribute small signs to local businesses this fall saying "No Kings, No ICE, No Fear - Immigrants Are Welcome Here" only a few out of two dozen would take the signs. This is not because they disagreed but because they feared drawing attention to themselves and causing retribution for their immigrant customers and workers. The few who did accept the signs ended up not displaying them.

ICE's 287(g) agreements turn local law enforcement into enablers of a lawless mass deportation machine. The General Assembly must pass legislation to end existing 287(g) agreements in eight Maryland counties and ban future agreements with state and local authorities. Prohibiting 287(g) agreements in Maryland will not stop ICE activities but we must do what we can to stem this domestic onslaught. It is supported by massive federal budgetary resources, and shows every sign of accelerating.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.