

SUPPORT Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition Senate Bill 245

In my role as president of the Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County, I continue to hear the concerns and fears of educators as immigration enforcement becomes more pervasive throughout our county. The students and families we serve are afraid for their safety, worry that a guardian will not be home when a child arrives after school, and—as a result—sometimes avoid attending school.

I support Senate Bill 245 which prohibits state and local law enforcement from entering into certain immigration enforcement agreements. As a local affiliate of the Maryland State Education Association, we reiterate their stance that students and educators are being traumatized by the escalating actions of immigration enforcement officers over the last 12 months, and communities everywhere are living under fear. Students cannot learn when they are afraid for their safety or the safety of their families.

As educators, we have accepted the responsibility to protect our students—every single student regardless of their immigration status—and we are called to protect families and communities. More importantly, our job is to provide an educational environment that inspires students' natural curiosity, imagination, and love of learning. Senate Bill 245's prohibition of state and local law enforcement from entering into certain immigration enforcement agreements will help to create a safer community in which all of our students can thrive.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 245.