

SB 0245 Judicial Proceedings Committee
Thursday, Jan. 22, 1:00 pm

Franca Brilliant
Takoma Park, MD 20912

TESTIMONY ON SB0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Franca Brilliant

My name is Franca Brilliant. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245.

I am the Social Action Vice President of the Board of Tifereth Israel Congregation, located in Washington DC with over 200 members who are Maryland residents, as well as a participant in the SEA Change DMV network of synagogues dedicated to advancing social justice, and a member of Action in Montgomery (AIM).

I support passage of SB 0245 because it would end all 287 (g) agreements between local jurisdictions and ICE in the state. It would put a barrier between illegal ICE activities and our communities. It would allow Maryland law enforcement agents to focus on their duty to keep our communities safe.

In the annual cycle of reading the Torah every Shabbat we have reached the story of Moses and Pharaoh, the source of the repeated commandment that we should treat the stranger “as one of your citizens...love him as yourself for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

I have watched with horror this past year as ICE has terrorized communities, torn families apart, and illegally harassed individuals, including citizens of the United States, based on their appearance and the color of their skin. I have friends and neighbors who live in terror of being picked up and disappeared to an undisclosed location on their way to being deported. I know that ICE is currently recruiting tens of thousands of agents with hefty salaries and signing bonuses and providing minimal training in the rules that govern interaction with community members.

This is not how we should behave.

Maryland local and state law enforcement agents have their own important roles to play. This does not include acting as agents of ICE. Currently, 8 Maryland counties have 287 (g) agreements with ICE. This legislation will make a difference to communities across the state. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 0245.