

Testimony on SB0245 - Favorable
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 16, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

Below you will find my favorable in support of SB0245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

My name is Cindy Brach and I live in District 20. I am proud to live in a diverse Maryland community. I write to you because I believe in due process and do not want our neighbors to live in fear that a traffic stop will land them in an ICE detention center.

ICE agents are terrorizing, detaining, and incarcerating Maryland residents randomly. As a Jew, I find it alarming how reminiscent these efforts are to Jews being rounded up, deported, and put into labor and concentration camps in the not-so-distant past. The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. They make Maryland officials collaborators with ICE's illegal activities. They divert local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. It affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g) agreements in Maryland. Maryland needs to take a stand and be on the right side of history.

There are also pragmatic reasons to oppose 287 (g) agreements. Restaurants in my neighborhood are suffering because immigrant populations, whether documented or not, fear going out. Parents are afraid to pick their children up from school and people are afraid to go grocery shopping. Children, fearful that their parents will disappear, are unable to focus in school. The 287(g) program is bad for the economy as well as the mental health of community members.

I'd like to thank my Senator, Will Smith, for making this bill a priority and urge all members of the Judiciary Committee to provide a favorable report on SB0245.