

Thursday, January 22, 2026

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TESTIMONY ON SB# 245- POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

My name is Arlene Ogurick. I am a resident of District 41, Baltimore City. **I am submitting this testimony in support of SB245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.** This would prevent counties from entering into 287(g) agreements with the federal government.

I am a member of Baltimore Jewish Cultural Chavurah. Jewish sacred texts insist we show love towards the stranger and act equitably - to make sure that those born outside of our country are as safe as those who were. I am very aware that my grandparents fled to America to escape persecution and find safety. Pogroms (organized massacres of Jews) in Russia were the motivation for my maternal grandmother's coming to America at age 16.

I am struck by the reality that 287(g) agreements make brown and Black communities particular targets for racial profiling. A friend in Minneapolis shared the reality that ICE has been grabbing people without a warrant for the crime of being brown across the metro area every 10 - 15 minutes. *USA Today* reported the detention of 5 Native American men in and around Minneapolis has caused an outcry among Indigenous people who are being racially profiled as undocumented immigrants. How can this be happening?

Marylanders cannot agree to making this harassment and persecution the norm in our state, 287(g) agreements undermine public safety and turn local law enforcement into perpetrators and enablers of ICEs' brutal attacks. The General Assembly must pass legislation to end existing 287(g) agreements and prohibit state and local law enforcement from entering into them. The devastation and excessive use of force we're seeing in Minneapolis must be prevented from happening in Maryland,

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#245.