

Testimony on Senate Bill-

Favorable

SB 245-Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement

Agreements-Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Deborah Shulman, and I am resident and community member of Olney, Maryland. I reside in District 14. I am writing in support of SB 245-Public Safety -Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

I personally care about this issue because my daughter in law is a naturalized citizen. I fear for her safety and those of her family even though they are all naturalized citizens. Why, because ICE is driven by numbers, bonuses, quotas. I also work daily as a volunteer with a mutual aid group that helps the immigrant community. These wonderful people are no different than we are. They have homes, jobs, family and community. They contribute taxes.

My daughter in law is a teacher and my son is a principal and many of their students are immigrants. I would tell people not to visit counties with 287g agreements. I am sure many others would do the same. My dollars should not be spent on hate and discriminatory practices.

No one should have to fear ICE and agencies that are assisting ICE. Reality is ICE isn't focusing on getting criminals off the street. They are just focused on creating fear and scapegoating our immigrant population. They are driven by quotas and financial gain.

Research states that immigrants are much less likely to commit violent crime. This lie is repeated from the top of our government down. I would share the research but I am sure the experts testifying today will do just that.

287g agreements do not make our state safer. If anything they do the opposite. Research shows victims often do not report crimes against them. Witnesses are afraid to speak out. This fear means that crimes are being committed and police are not getting the assistance from the community needed to remove criminals from the street. Of course we want criminals prosecuted and if found guilty, they should be deported. This is not what happens with 287g agreements. Local law enforcement notifies ICE of detained immigrants and they never get their day in court. They are presumed guilty. This is illegal.

Lets, talk about the truth

People are trying to gain citizenship. They show up for annual immigration appointments as they have for years and they are being taken. They are treated in a way no human should be treated. They are being forced to decide if they should show up or stay home because all too often they are picked up by ICE. I know of cases where they are thwarted to show their papers and ICE ignores. This forces people to seek legal help. Their families lose their breadwinners. People are afraid to shop or leave their homes. Children are terrorized and afraid to go to school. Why do we want counties to be making what ICE is doing worse? There is no good reason.

People aren't afforded due process

They are forced to make decisions like returning to their home country vs staying in ICE detention where treatment is inhumane

They are forced to return to a place they faced gang violence and certain death

Why is 287g bad for MD?

Research shows that these agreements do not lower crime rates

Do we want people fearing the police?

Do we want witnesses and people who can help put a criminal in jail to remain silent out of fear?

Maryland should do the right thing and join other states who have ended 287g agreement

Maryland is called The Free State

I am grateful to my county that is fighting hard for immigrants rights

Maryland should be doing the same

287g agreements do the exact opposite

Respectfully,

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