Written Testimony SB0245 Favorable Aaron Olivas.pd
Uploaded by: Aaron Olivas
Position: FAV

SB0245 ~ Favorable
Aaron Olivas
3olivaskla@gmail.com

To Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldestreicher, and members of the committee,

ICE makes agreements with counties on a very frequent basis. As of now, according to the Department of Homeland Security, they have stricken more than 1000 agreements with counties and states. This includes many of Maryland's counties.

These agreements, particularly the 287g agreements, are considerably harmful across the state in a variety of ways. While the county I reside in, Baltimore County, has not yet implemented such an agreement, they do have a memorandum of understanding and the prospect of a larger 287g agreement has worried me and my peers significantly.

The tactics used by ICE are often corrupt or morally dubious at the very least. They often use face masks to conceal their identity and are known to lie frequently simply to meet quotas, utilizing administrative warrants extensively to hunt down individuals and detain them. They are also notorious for their racial profiling of Latinos. As a Latino Student myself, despite being an American born citizen, I feel some fear that ICE may profile and detain me. This fear is generally held the same around my community. This has been heightened recently as, per NBC, 11 people have been shot during immigration enforcement operations since September alone.

287g agreements also have a profound fiscal impact. ICE uses local law enforcement and their holding facilities in 287g agreements to assist in immigration enforcement. These facilities and officers should remain the responsibility of the DHS. Relying on our local law enforcement funding for officer training, overtime and other administrative duties, in which localities often take the burden of ICE salaries, puts significant strain on local budgets, often outweighing any federal funding. This is felt greatly in Maryland with our significant budget shortfall this session.

Perhaps worst of all, these agreements do not work. Frederick County, which has a 287g agreement, has a crime rate 14% higher than Montgomery County which has no 287g agreements and, according to the DLS, has the highest immigrant population of any county in Maryland. This is thanks to several factors. While ICE was initially established to deport criminals, more than 70% of ICE detainees were detained on civil charges. Furthermore, only 5% had a violent criminal conviction. Furthermore, in detention facilities in 2025, 32 individuals died in ICE custody, with at least another 4 since the start of 2026 alone. Their facilities are often cited as inhumane. Regardless, having 287g agreements clearly distracts Maryland law enforcement from stopping the crime that really matters, defeating the whole purpose of the agreements and worsening community trust with law enforcement.

From inhumane facilities to crippling fiscal impacts, 287g agreements and all other agreements with ICE are considerably harmful to Marylanders, eroding community trust with law enforcement and preventing local police from doing their duties and keeping Maryland safe. This bill, SB0245, saves our community, our law enforcement and our budget by getting rid of these awful agreements. In the interests and values of all Maryland, I ask that the committee vote favorably on SB0245 and end ICE agreements throughout the state of Maryland.

SB 0245 Public Safety Immigration Enforcement Agre

Uploaded by: Abbie Ellicott

Position: FAV

SB 0245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

SUPPORT SB 0245

Hearing in the Judicial Proceedings Committee, January 22

Dear Chairperson Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Senators on the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am a resident of Severna Park Maryland (D31) and I am writing to ask you to **give a favorable vote on SB 0245**, which would prohibit immigration enforcement agreements with local law enforcement agencies in Maryland. I strongly believe that the agreements between immigration agencies and local law enforcement must be abolished across the state, as they already have been in many counties. Over the past year, immigration agencies such as ICE have been terrorizing citizens with increasingly aggressive and militarized tactics as well as actions that are clearly unconstitutional. Tragically, this has led to the wounding and death of innocent citizens. I recently read that ICE has almost tripled its number of arrests over the past year, fomenting fear and distrust in our communities. Maryland must take steps to protect citizens from the harm that ICE is perpetrating. Local law enforcement officials should not be partnering with ICE. Immigration enforcement agreements create more distrust and alienation between local law enforcement and communities, which creates greater risk of danger and harm for all.

I urge you to SUPPORT SB 0245.

Sincerely,

Abbie Ellicott
Severna Park, MD 21146

Favorable SB 0245 Abigail Cohen.pdf
Uploaded by: Abigail Cohen
Position: FAV

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 Abigail Cohen, and I both work and live in Towson, in Baltimore County. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I am a member of both Jews United for Justice and the CASA Ally Network, but I am not submitting this testimony on behalf of any organization. I support this bill because all four of my grandparents were Jewish immigrants to the United States from Eastern Europe. If they had not been able to come to this country, they probably would have been killed in the Holocaust and I would never have been born. Instead, they were able to overcome poverty, become successful businesspeople in the United States, and raise children who were all college graduates. Like many Jewish citizens of this country, I exist because when my grandparents needed a place to go, the doors were wide open to immigrants from Europe. Seeing how much my family has benefited from immigration, I am compelled to support people who have come here for the same reasons my grandparents did: to find a safe place to raise their families and make a better life.

The commandment repeated most often in the Torah (over 30 times) is not to oppress the person who has come from another place to live among us. Often translated as "stranger," the word actually means "immigrant" or "resident alien." As Jews, we are taught that because we were aliens who were enslaved in the land of Egypt, we must treat the people who come to live among us as we would want to be treated. Both the Torah and my family's personal experience require me to help and protect immigrants.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) contracts create fear and undermine public safety for everyone. When people are afraid to contact law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses. I have seen this in my own community. I met a woman who did not have legal immigration status, and was in a relationship with a man who did have legal immigration status. He abused her horribly. She was afraid to seek help from the police, because her abuser told her that if she went to the police, they would report her to ICE. The abuse continued. Eventually, an advocate told the woman that what her abuser said was not true – she could go to the police without fear. She was then able to stand up to her abuser with the truth, and the abuse stopped.

In my community now, people are afraid to leave their homes, afraid to send their children to school. A friend's child has told his mom that all his friends with Spanish names are missing from class. Children – including children who were born here – are being denied an education because their parents are terrified they will be taken from them. This is in a county that doesn't even have a 287(g) contract! I can only imagine how much worse it would be if we did.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. I want Maryland's law enforcement officers to fight crime, and not be entangled in

federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. According to the National Police Funding Database, in the past five years Maryland law enforcement agencies have had to pay multiple big settlements because they were found to have engaged in unfair or abusive police practices. How many more cases like this will there be, if our police officers are forced to support ICE? We have seen many recent instances of ICE officers unjustifiably abusing and even killing people, including American citizens and permanent residents. I don't want Maryland law enforcement officers to be caught up in those practices or exposed to that liability.

For all these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245. Thank you for your time and consideration.

testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Adam Weingast
Position: FAV

To the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Adam Weingast, and I'm a Baltimore City resident and a member of District 43A, I support SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

This bill will protect all of my neighbors with varying citizenship and residency status.

I believe that passing of this bill is essential because I believe our state and local governments should be committed to serving and protecting the people who live, work, and pay taxes. Violent federal immigration forces (ICE) are targeting my friends and family, which impacts the physical and mental safety of my community. Passing this bill would help protect those who are most vulnerable. Growing up in the Jewish community and learning about the horrors of the Holocaust, the parallels between what ICE is doing here and how the Nazi's rounded up and exterminated Jews, Romani, POC, and members of the LGBT+ community is clear to me and extremely concerning.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on **SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.**

Sincerely,

Adam Weingast
CASA
adamweingast@gmail.com

SB245 Sample Testimony_ADuprey.pdf
Uploaded by: Alexandra Duprey
Position: FAV

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 Alexandra Duprey, and I am a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I am deeply concerned by the violence ICE is carrying out across the country, including the violence towards lawful residents and citizens. The recent shooting of unarmed mother Renee Nicole Good in Minnesota is a clear example of the violence ICE is committing. I want my neighbors in Baltimore to feel safe going to school, going to work, being part of the city. I do not want me or my neighbors to live in fear of abuse and harm at the hands of ICE.

By prohibiting local government cooperation with ICE, Maryland state senators can lead the charge in pushing back against this violence.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

As a Marylander, I am scared. I am scared of how my neighbors are being racially profiled, I am scared of my community being the victim of ICE violence like in Minneapolis, I am scared of seeing the armed and masked ICE officers out on my street, and, most of all, I am scared of the lack of accountability there is for them to treat people with respect and care.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

By prohibiting local government cooperation with ICE, state senators can show their communities that they care about their safety and well-being during a time of great historical injustice. We MUST take care of our neighbors.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alexandra Duprey

Support-SB 245- End 287(g) Agreements- Rev. Dr. Al

Uploaded by: Alexandra Fraser

Position: FAV

Testimony IN FAVOR of SB 245
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

DATE: January 22, 2026
TO: Sen. William Smith, Chair, Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Rev. Alexandra “Alexa” Fraser

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony IN FAVOR of **SB 245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition** that will end 287(g) Intergovernmental Service Agreements between the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local law enforcement agencies in Maryland. My name is Rev. Dr. Alexa Fraser, I am a resident of District Number 17.

I am a minister and concerned citizen of Maryland, Montgomery County and Rockville. My faith, Unitarian Universalism, calls for love at the center of all we do. My faith also compels me to search for equity and justice, and to use those values in my interactions with my friends, neighbors, and yes, my enemies. Unfortunately, it seems that the members of ICE (or local police working in cooperation with them) do not share these values.

I have neighbors whose lives have been ruined by ICE raids and while I’m attempting to stand up in ways I can as an elder (though a white US citizen) I truly worry for myself and others with the mandate the members of ICE are following. Their actions are illegal and against all I know Maryland stands for.

You know where I stand and knowing the committee and its leadership
I believe you too stand for our people and against ICE.

Thank you.
Rev. Alexandra (Alexa) Fraser
503 Mannakee St.
Rockville, MD 20850-1915

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Testimony of Jaime Contreras, 32BJ SEIU Executive Vice President
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill No. 245 - Favorable
January 22, 2026

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

32BJ SEIU offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

32BJ SEIU is proud to stand in solidarity with the over one million immigrants residing in Maryland who live in constant fear of detention and deportation. As an organization that is dedicated to advancing and protecting worker rights, we strongly support and urge the passage of **SB 245.**

32BJ is the largest building service union in the country, representing over 185,000 members up and down the East Coast and over 3,700 members across Maryland. Our members are primarily immigrants and people of color, and make up the workforce of essential cleaners, door-people, airport workers, and other building service workers who keep our homes, workplaces, schools, and transportation hubs up and running.

With our dedicated members, we fight to build a just society where immigrants can live free of fear and are treated with dignity and respect. Unfortunately, communities nationwide are facing an unprecedented attack by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Immigration arrests have tripled across the country, and Maryland has been no exception to this trend.[i] The current administration's immigration dragnet has left few communities unscathed. Our union family is no exception: multiple 32BJ members have been subjected to unjust detention by ICE.

At its core, **SB 245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

Over the past year, increasingly reckless federal immigration policy has sown fear and distrust across our union's membership and damaged the broader social fabric that holds our state together. Although President Trump claimed that ICE would be targeting "dangerous criminals,"[ii] seventy three percent of those detained since October of last year had no criminal conviction and only five

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percent had been convicted of a violent crime.[iii] Due to this indiscriminate persecution, workers across Maryland are increasingly hesitant to show up for their jobs, employers are seeing disruption and uncertainty in their workplaces, and violations of labor and wage laws are going unaddressed because workers fear that speaking up could put themselves or their families at risk.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

This climate of fear undermines basic workplace accountability. Retaliation—or the fear of it—is the primary reason workers do not report abuse. When immigration enforcement activity escalates, especially where it intersects with state or local law enforcement, unethical employers are effectively given cover to exploit vulnerable workers.[iv] That exploitation does not stop with immigrant workers; it threatens safety and standards across entire sectors. Clear protections that separate immigration enforcement from workers' interactions with government are essential to ensuring that all workers can assert their rights without fear

For these reasons, 32BJ SEIU urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

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[i] Kate Amara & Khiree Stewart, *'It scares me': Marylanders protesting as data shows ICE arrests nearly tripled in 2025*, WBAL-TV 11 Baltimore, Jan 12, 2026. https://www.wbaltv.com/article/marylanders-protesting-data-ice-arrests-nearly-tripled-2025/69980610

[ii] Melissa Goldin, *Trump says he wants to deport 'the worst of the worst.' Government data tells another story,* Associated Press, July 12, 2025. https://apnews.com/article/fact-check-trump-immigration-crime-ice-criminal-dangerous-violent-99557d9d68642004193a9f4b7668162e

[iii] David Bier, *5% of People Detained By ICE Have Violent Convictions, 73% No Convictions*, CATO Institute, November 24, 2025. https://www.cato.org/blog/5-ice-detainees-have-violent-convictions-73-no-convictions

[iv] Daniel Costa, *Immigration enforcement and the workplace,* Economic Policy Institute. April 15, 2025. https://www.epi.org/publication/immigration-enforcement-and-the-workplace/

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Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill No. 245 - Favorable
January 22, 2026

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At its core, **SB 245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

Over the past year, increasingly reckless federal immigration policy has sown fear and distrust across our union's membership and damaged the broader social fabric that holds our state together. Although President Trump claimed that ICE would be targeting "dangerous criminals,"[ii] seventy three percent of those detained since October of last year had no criminal conviction and only five

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The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

This climate of fear undermines basic workplace accountability. Retaliation—or the fear of it—is the primary reason workers do not report abuse. When immigration enforcement activity escalates, especially where it intersects with state or local law enforcement, unethical employers are effectively given cover to exploit vulnerable workers.[iv] That exploitation does not stop with immigrant workers; it threatens safety and standards across entire sectors. Clear protections that separate immigration enforcement from workers' interactions with government are essential to ensuring that all workers can assert their rights without fear

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Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill No. 245 - Favorable
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percent had been convicted of a violent crime.[iii] Due to this indiscriminate persecution, workers across Maryland are increasingly hesitant to show up for their jobs, employers are seeing disruption and uncertainty in their workplaces, and violations of labor and wage laws are going unaddressed because workers fear that speaking up could put themselves or their families at risk.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

This climate of fear undermines basic workplace accountability. Retaliation—or the fear of it—is the primary reason workers do not report abuse. When immigration enforcement activity escalates, especially where it intersects with state or local law enforcement, unethical employers are effectively given cover to exploit vulnerable workers.[iv] That exploitation does not stop with immigrant workers; it threatens safety and standards across entire sectors. Clear protections that separate immigration enforcement from workers' interactions with government are essential to ensuring that all workers can assert their rights without fear.

For these reasons, 32BJ SEIU urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

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[i] Kate Amara & Khiree Stewart, *'It scares me': Marylanders protesting as data shows ICE arrests nearly tripled in 2025*, WBAL-TV 11 Baltimore, Jan 12, 2026. https://www.wbaltv.com/article/marylanders-protesting-data-ice-arrests-nearly-tripled-2025/69980610

[ii] Melissa Goldin, *Trump says he wants to deport 'the worst of the worst.' Government data tells another story,* Associated Press, July 12, 2025. https://apnews.com/article/fact-check-trump-immigration-crime-ice-criminal-dangerous-violent-99557d9d68642004193a9f4b7668162e

[iii] David Bier, *5% of People Detained By ICE Have Violent Convictions, 73% No Convictions*, CATO Institute, November 24, 2025. https://www.cato.org/blog/5-ice-detainees-have-violent-convictions-73-no-convictions

[iv] Daniel Costa, *Immigration enforcement and the workplace,* Economic Policy Institute. April 15, 2025. https://www.epi.org/publication/immigration-enforcement-and-the-workplace/

SB 245_FAV_AdvanceMaryland.pdf
Uploaded by: Alice Wilkerson
Position: FAV

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,

Advance Maryland supports the passage of SB 245, prohibiting 287(g) agreements in Maryland. This bill is about upholding Maryland's core values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all—while promoting real public safety. SB 245 affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining community trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on keeping communities safe, respecting due process, and ensuring equal treatment under the law.

Immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) blur the line between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. As a result, they create fear in immigrant communities and make all of us less safe. When residents fear that contact with local police could lead to detention or deportation, they are far less likely to report crimes, seek emergency assistance, or cooperate with law enforcement as witnesses. Survivors of domestic violence, workers facing exploitation, and victims of serious crimes are often pushed into silence. This erosion of trust undermines the ability of law enforcement to do its job effectively and weakens community safety statewide.

Programs like 287(g) have also been linked to racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. By encouraging local agencies to engage in immigration enforcement, these agreements increase the risk that people will be targeted based on race, ethnicity, or perceived immigration status rather than actual criminal behavior. This is inconsistent with Maryland's commitment to equal protection and due process under the law.

In addition, 287(g) agreements represent a poor use of limited state and local resources. They require training, staffing, and administrative capacity that would be far better spent on addressing serious crime, preventing violence, and supporting community-based public safety strategies. Federal immigration enforcement is the responsibility of the federal government, not local jurisdictions. Maryland taxpayers should not be subsidizing policies that do not make our communities safer and that actively destabilize families and neighborhoods.

SB 245 makes clear that Maryland is committed to policies that strengthen trust between residents and local institutions. Ending 287(g) agreements allows law enforcement to focus on their core mission and reassures communities that seeking help will not put their families at risk. This clarity benefits everyone who lives and works in Maryland.

For these reasons, Advance Maryland respectfully urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245 and take an important step toward a safer, fairer Maryland for all.

FAVORABLE SB0245_Alison Grice.pdf
Uploaded by: Alison Grice
Position: FAV

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 Alison Grice and I am a resident of Wicomico County, **Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

Since our current administration has been in place, I have seen the worst of humanity demonstrated by Immigration Enforcement. I have witnessed countless videos and written accounts of illegal kidnappings, assaults, deportations, and killings of innocent people seeking asylum, trying to legally become U.S. citizens, and U.S. citizens. Locally, I have seen and heard accounts of hardworking immigrants and their families torn apart in the same ways. I participated in efforts to stop our County Executive and Sheriff from passing a 287(g) agreement in our County, and although it is currently stalled, the ICE efforts continue. None of these immigration enforcement efforts are executed with the goal of seeking out criminals or making our communities safer.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Knowing what has happened to others at the hands of ICE across the country, the local immigrant communities, and people of color in general, are fearing for theirs and their families' safety & lives. They are not more but less likely to speak up and work with law enforcement at this time. A few are willing to stand up against the injustices I speak of, but they are not more likely to trust their local law enforcement. Now that Renee Good has been killed, we all fear for our lives and for what lengths this administration and ICE will go to if theirs efforts remain unchecked.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

I also don't believe that if our Democratic representatives try to work with the Republicans on a compromised budget or reform or new training of ICE "agents" that the situation will improve. These individuals are acting with unchecked force, illegally, and without remorse or moral judgment. There is no curbing efforts of or retraining of individuals who have no conscience about what they are doing.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

NDWA DMV Chapter SB245 testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Allison Yunda
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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,

The National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

The National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) works to win the respect, recognition, and labor rights of the nearly 2.5 million domestic workers—nannies, house cleaners, and homecare workers—who play a crucial role in caring for our families and homes. Domestic workers perform vital tasks that enable all other work to happen. They are the caregivers who look after our children, the cleaners who maintain our homes, and the care providers who help our loved ones live with dignity and independence. While the National Domestic Workers Alliance is a national organization, our DMV chapter is a locally operated, membership-based organization covering the geographical area of Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

Most domestic workers are at the heart of some of the nation's most significant issues due to their identities and roles: they are primarily women—many of whom are women of color, immigrants, mothers, and low-wage earners. Their lives are directly impacted by policies that shape the future of our economy, democracy, and society. And unfortunately, right now, many domestic workers are facing uncertainty and fear due to the current presidential administration's attacks on immigrant communities.

At its core, **SB 245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

We are hearing from many of our immigrant members in Maryland that they are living in fear. They are scared to go to places that many of us take for granted, like grocery stores and public

transportation hubs.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

For these reasons, **NDWA** urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

SB245 testimony Amy Huberman.pdf
Uploaded by: Amy Huberman
Position: FAV

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

My name is Amy Huberman, and I'm a resident of Baltimore County, MD. I'm writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

As the great-granddaughter of Jews who fled pogroms in Belarus and sought asylum in this country; and as the spouse of an immigrant who fled persecution in Russia, I know on a very personal level how vulnerable our immigrant neighbors can feel as they are trying to find safety and build new lives and new communities.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

In the past year, I have witnessed how my immigrant friends—including those who are naturalized citizens—are increasingly afraid to leave their homes, even for work, let alone to seek help or have any sort of contact with law enforcement.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Prohibiting agreements like 287(g) would allow our immigrant neighbors, family, and friends to feel much safer, knowing that they can trust local law enforcement to help and protect them when they are they are the victims of crimes. It would help build an atmosphere of trust and collaboration in our communities, which would make all of us safer.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

FAVORABLE SB0245_AmyLaGrange.pdf
Uploaded by: AMY LAGRANGE
Position: FAV

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

My name is Amy LaGrange and I am a resident of Calvert County, **Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I care about this issue as I have valued friends and family who are currently being targeted by Immigration agents. Some of these folks are undocumented while many are documented or even US citizens. My loved ones and those of us who love and value them are frightened. This is not how I wish humans to be treated regardless of their status.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I have seen profiled people of all statuses concerned to step out of their houses, afraid to drive, go to work, take their children to school. I have seen an absence of these faces in church and stores and the monthly food bank as people fear encounters with immigration agents.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize Programs neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy LaGrange

Anders Julin SB0245 Favorable Written Testimony.pd
Uploaded by: Anders Julin
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB0245 – 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 Anders Julin, and I am a resident of Catonsville, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB0245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I am in support of the bill because I've seen what agreements between law enforcement and ICE have done in other states, and I don't want that in my local community. Policing works when there is earned trust between those enforcing the laws and those they should be helping. When that trust is degraded by assisting an agency that has been shown to effectively have no oversight, everyone suffers. Our local communities feel less safe when neighbors potentially stop reporting crime or being witnesses for fear of placing a spotlight on themselves. Even those who would not be a target for ICE like myself second guess cooperation as it could inadvertently lead to unwarranted scrutiny and retaliation.

This past year has shown ICE is brazen enough in their actions on their own, and partnering with state law enforcement, no matter what level, only emboldens them to go beyond the scope of their work. Having agreements with an organization such as ICE who comes in and indiscriminately terrorizes communities decimates any goodwill, and drastically reduces community interest in supporting local enforcement activities. I don't want my state tax dollars assisting this gross overreach of federal action.

A prohibition on these cooperation agreements is a fantastic show of good faith that our law enforcement is here to protect the community, not sell them out, actively or passively, to the Federal Government. It would reinforce that earned trust, and lead to more open and honest dialogue between law enforcement and their communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB0245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anders Julin

Bill_SB0245_Andrew Miller - FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Andrew Miller
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: Thursday 1/22/26
Name: Andrew J. Miller
Address: Baltimore, MD 21209

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: Andrew J. Miller

My name is Andrew Miller. I am a resident of District 11B. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

I am a Past President of Chizuk Amuno Congregation, a large Conservative synagogue in Pikesville, and I am also Chair of the Synagogue Social Justice Roundtable which includes representatives from12 partner communities and organizations in Baltimore County, Baltimore City and Howard County.

Our sacred texts command us to love the stranger, as we ourselves were once strangers in the land of Egypt, and many of our families came to the United States to escape persecution. For me and for many in my community, protection of immigrants is therefore a sacred obligation. For the last several years our congregation and others have worked in support of Afghan refugee families fleeing the Taliban by providing direct support with the help of refugee relief organizations that worked in collaboration with the federal government until those collaborations were terminated in 2025.

Many of us have also worked over the last 9 years, together with immigrant support organizations, to protect the rights of others who arrived in our country to take refuge from oppressive conditions elsewhere in the world. Immigrants are important contributors to our economy and to our communities here in Maryland, where they make up 17% of the population and contribute to the economy, pay taxes, and create businesses that provide employment opportunities. According to a 2024 report by the Maryland Comptroller's Office, "Immigrants have long bolstered Maryland's population, and they are essential for a thriving economy and economic growth." All of us who are not Native Americans are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants, many of whom came here to escape persecution and all of whom came to seek a better life.

ICE's terror tactics are not focused on public safety. According to testimony before the Baltimore County Council by Stephanie Wolf, Director of Immigration Services in the

Maryland Public Defender's Office, **92% of the increase in detentions of immigrants over the last year is arrests of people who have no criminal convictions at all**. But many are now living in fear that they will be accosted at their places of work, at hospitals, schools, houses of worship, and in courthouses, and that their families could be separated. We have all seen videos of people being pulled out of cars while dropping off children at school, rounded up at workplaces, and kidnapped as they go about their business, often ripping families apart for no reason. Even American citizens are being abducted and having their rights violated. These lawless acts are causing fear and suffering.

It has become clear to me and many others in the last couple of weeks that our federal immigration enforcement agencies are now operating almost entirely outside the framework of federal law and the Constitution, and therefore are no longer legitimate partners in law enforcement. Senator Waldstreicher reached that same conclusion in a letter to the editor of Bethesda magazine published on January 8 where he writes "in the absence of ICE's willingness to uphold its core mission, and to do so constitutionally, Maryland's only choice is to formally decouple for the duration of the Trump administration. The credibility of our police agencies is at stake."

The choice before us is clear. I urge you to act with courage, compassion, and moral clarity.

Therefore I respectfully ask this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.

SB245 Testimony - Andy Solages.pdf
Uploaded by: Andy Solages
Position: FAV

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 Andy Solages, and I live in Frederick, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear, danger, and harm in our communities. Immigrants and their families experience the most fear and danger, but 287(g) harms more than the most vulnerable.

The public conversation about immigration and inhumane attacks on migrants and our communities is poisoned with lies and propaganda about migrants committing crimes, and racist gibberish like “Haitians are stealing and eating pets.” So, in case someone reading my testimony has a mind clouded with that nonsense, I’ll speak to my experience as a natural-born citizen, taxpayer, and “hard-working American” before returning to the immigrants we should center here.

I am furious that my children (who are citizens) ask me whether ICE might kidnap them or me based on our appearance. And because of 287(g), the question isn’t just about “ICE” proper but includes our city police and sheriff’s department. I can’t hide ICE’s inhumanity and the racial implications from my older child, so any relationship between ICE and local law enforcement forces tough conversations that start with fear.

I have no interest in a patronizing response telling me how 287(g) agreements work. I know how they’re “supposed” to work. But I’m testifying about the real-life impact and fear that makes the “on-paper” spin irrelevant.

In our community, I’ve heard stories of families separated and harmed after contact with law enforcement involving frivolous legal issues and pretexts. This includes a recent conversation with a citizen who is afraid to drive her car to work after her immigrant husband (who entered this country legally) was taken from her. As I started writing this testimony, a friend (a citizen) described her recent experience comforting a weeping child whose loved ones were snatched away. The child stayed in her arms for 20 minutes and asked my friend if she “would protect her.” My neighbors speak of their sorrow and fear, and if we’re human, we should hear them and act.

287(g) agreements undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims. No one who cares about public safety should support agreements that

make law enforcement vehicles driving through neighborhoods feel like a cause for increased vigilance.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling (e.g., “Kavanaugh stops”), discrimination, and wrongful detention (e.g, ChongLy Scott Thao in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Kilmar Abrego Garcia in our state). They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SUPPORT SB245 Sample Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Angela Mezzomo
Position: FAV

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 Dr. Helen Angela Mezzomo, and I am a Crownsville resident**,** Anne Arundel County Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I work with staff and students who are regularly in fear of being abducted off the street, regardless of their legal status. Family members are left to wonder where their parents, siblings, or other members have been taken and if they will be seen again. The “process” followed by ICE agents clearly violate the law and any semblance of humanity.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I have had students ask me if I would hide or protect them if ICE came for them in school, while they were go to/from school, or if I could help them find their family members.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

People, especially US citizens should not be approached by groups of armed, unidentified men in masks. Their behavior exemplifies why women choose the bear.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Helen Angela Mezzomo

Dr. Helen Angela Mezzomo

Testimony on SB#0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Anita Lampel
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: January 22, 1 PM

Anita Lampel
Bethesda, MD, 20817

TESTIMONY ON SB#0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Bill Name: Public Safely-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition

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

FROM: Anita K. Lampel

My name is Anita Lampel. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

I am Anita Lampel, a member of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Synagogue. In today's deeply troubling times, echoing the regressive politics of the 1930s and 1950s, Maryland must be a blue beacon of hope. The Bible shared by many faith traditions calls out numerous times to protect the stranger in our land for we were once strangers in Egypt. And America has, in the past, done just that–welcoming "the tempest tossed, the huddled masses yearning to be free." My parents were immigrants to America and I was the first citizen, born months after they arrived in California.

They, and my extended family, never wavered in their support. But, because they were Jewish, they knew the United States had turned away refugees from Europe, returning them to certain death. They understood the price to be paid if you were not the right sort of immigrant–a category for which they barely qualified as Jews. We all know this history, but not as well as we should. How shameful it would be for us to allow our Maryland law enforcement officers to cooperate in terrorizing families who fled horrible conditions in their countries in search of a better life, just as my family did.

End the cooperation with ICE. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.**

In favor of SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Ann Rentschler
Position: FAV

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 **Ann Rentschler**, and I am a **resident of Baltimore County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I believe that ICE's actions the past year have demonstrated that it cannot be trusted to act with due process and within humane parameters that respect individuals from immigrant communities. Maryland should not be partnering with an agency that is sowing fear, harming innocent people, and acting in ways antithetical to American and Maryland values. Public safety in Maryland can and should be handled independent of ICE.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB0245_AnnaLevy_FAV_01-22-2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Anna Levy
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

Anna Tubiash Levy
Rockville, MD 20852

TESTIMONY ON SB#0245 - POSITION: (FAVORABLE)
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Anna Tubiash Levy

My name is Anna Tubiash Levy. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I am a resident of Montgomery County and celebrate the diversity of cultures that make our community a wonderful place to live. I am a member of Tikvat Israel Congregation in Rockville, Jews United for Justice, SEA Change and Action in Montgomery. My Jewish values and traditions include respect for every human being and support and caring for all members of our community. Each one of us, no matter where we were born, is critical to providing the services and substance of a healthy and welcoming community. I believe that it is immoral to tear apart families and to generate fear amongst those who live, work, and visit in our communities.

My grandparents came to the United States from Eastern Europe, fleeing oppression and poverty. As do the immigrants today, they wanted to raise my parents in a place of safety and opportunity. Our homes, schools, places of worship and public spaces must be accessible and safe for everyone, protected from warrantless discrimination.

This bill will separate the work of our local and state law enforcement officers from that of federal immigration agents. These agents are targeting people in our communities through racial profiling, depriving them of their legal rights and detaining them, some unlawfully. Collaboration of our local law enforcement in such activities undermines community trust in those meant to protect us. Each of us should be able to report crimes without the threat of deportation, protecting all of our community and allowing our local law enforcement officers to do their job and not that of ICE.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.

Testimony SB0245 FAV 1.pdf
Uploaded by: ANNA RUBIN
Position: FAV

Jan. 20, 2026
Dr. Anna Rubin
Columbia, MD 21045

TESTIMONY ON SB245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

TO: Chair, William Smith, Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the JPR Committee
FROM: Dr. Anna Rubin

My name is Dr. Anna Rubin. I am a resident of District 13. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I am the chair of Columbia Jewish Congregation's Social Justice Committee. I enthusiastically support SB0245 in order to further the safety of my neighbors and friends. 287g agreements are dangerous, promote racial profiling and the unlawful abduction of people without due process. This often violent process violates my Jewish values which mandate that every person is created in the image of God and that we are commanded to protect the stranger in 32 different citations in the Hebrew Bible.

I am the child of an immigrant who came to this family from Eastern Europe before World War I. If my father had not been successful in immigrating here with his family, it is very likely that they would have been killed during World War II. How crushed he would have been to know that this country, which he adored and honored, was behaving this way to people struggling to find a haven and refuge from persecution and poverty, just as he was. How horrified he would be to hear of the violence perpetrated by ICE agents.

I see the fear in the eyes of friends, neighbors and business employees. I hear about people terrified to leave their homes to work, go to medical appointments or to take their children to school. I am aware of how devastated families are to lose a beloved parent, child or sibling, and who are struggling to survive financially when the wage earner suddenly disappears. I urge you to pass a clean bill with no carve outs.

In closing, I urge you to pass SB0245 and to protect Marylanders from a rogue agency trading in mob tactics and violence.

testimony opposing 2887g.pdf
Uploaded by: Annette Breiling
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – Favorable

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

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

My name is Annette Breiling, and I am a resident of Frederick County, MD. I write in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I am concerned for the well-being of our immigrant community, many of whom are undocumented through no fault of their own due to a system that routinely blocks "legal" access to immigration.

Our sheriff in Frederick County insists that 287g makes our county safer, but a check on research says the opposite. While crime reduction has occurred in our county, **still greater crime reduction rates, over a comparable time interval, have occurred in neighboring Montgomery and Prince George's County where 287g was not in place. Even a study by the conservative Heritage Foundation could not show evidence that the practice of 287g led to reduced crime compared to jurisdictions without 287g.**

I support **SB 245** because I feel so bad for the fear this legislation imposes on our immigrant community – fear to leave homes for even such simple actions as grocery shopping.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons and more, I urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Annette Breiling

Ijamsville, Maryland

SB245 Testimony - Favorable - Anthony Caruso.pdf
Uploaded by: Anthony Caruso
Position: FAV

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 Anthony Caruso, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I personally know people who are terrified of leaving their homes because of ICE. These people are legal US citizens, but that sadly might not be enough to prevent them from being separated from their homes.

Programs like 287(g) only serve to exacerbate this issue because they allow this fear to extend to local law enforcement. Under 287(g) agreements, when people interact with local law enforcement, they fear racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention – and this is in addition to whatever fears they would have otherwise when dealing with law enforcement.

Because of these added fears, people are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses, even when they are victims. This makes our local law enforcement less effective. We need to regain trust in our local law enforcement, and prohibiting programs like 287(g) would be a small, but necessary, step in regaining that trust.

Also, even if you support what ICE is doing, programs like 287(g) are still a negative impact on our community's law enforcement. These programs overburden law enforcement members with the additional task of enforcing federal immigration law. This should not be their responsibility. Many members of law enforcement did not sign up for this, don't want this, and don't have the skills or resources to handle this properly. Programs like 287(g) are blatant misappropriations of our resources.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony for SB 0245 - Prohibition on Immigration

Uploaded by: Ariana Giles

Position: FAV

Ariana Giles
312 Chessington Dr., Odenton, MD 21113
District 33A

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0245, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Testimony submitted on 20 January 2026
TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr. & the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Ariana Giles

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is Ariana, I live in Odenton, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0245, Prohibition on Immigration Enforcement Agreements.

As reports of ICE activity in Maryland increase, I'm scared we'll soon see similarly violent stories to those we've heard from other states. This bill is timely and critically necessary. In addition to terrorizing communities around the country, national and local media outlets have reported human rights abuses, detentions of not just illegal immigrants, but immigrants in good legal standing, U.S. citizens, and even Native Americans. The percentage of detained people with criminal records by immigration officers is far below that of people with no criminal records and who are assessed with either a low or no threat level.

Additionally, immigration enforcement agreements with local law enforcement pull local officers away from more critical local safety needs. This bill will ensure our local officers do not waste time on politically motivated and racist agendas. Trust in local law enforcement is built slowly and can crumble easily. Passing this bill will show Marylanders that our leaders value that trust. I will feel safer if I know my local officers are available to respond to local emergencies and will focus on providing emergency care, de-escalating situations, and not adding to ridiculous immigration detention quotas.

Please let Maryland be a safer place for all of us. Prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements is one small step towards ensuring local law enforcement remains focused on local safety matters. I urge you to support SB 0245 and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement is focused on local matters.

SB245_ArielleJuberg_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Arielle Juberg
Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

When I think about my ideal community, I imagine a clean, walkable neighborhood where neighbors can gather outside coffee shops and parks. When I think about a nightmare, I imagine armed, masked agents violently smashing someone's car window as people inside the car scream in fear. I don't want this nightmare scenario in my neighborhood. I don't want my family to witness it on an errand. I don't want to live in a state where this behavior is normal and accepted. My nightmare scenario has happened here in Maryland in the past year, and it is happening with increasing frequency. While SB245 does not control the action of federal agents, it is Maryland's opportunity to reject these unconstitutional tactics and take a stand. I hope you will be brave enough to protect our communities and neighbors.

Maryland's immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing $8 billion in federal and $4 billion in state taxes, providing $2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power[1]. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resulting "chilling effect" in Hispanic communities.[2] Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program"[3] Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who "posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%."[4]

It is for these reasons that I encourage you to support SB245. Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Arielle Juberg
3411 Upton Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

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[1] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council

[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

[2] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018

[3] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1

[4] The 287(g) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council

Copy of MD Senate Judicial Proceedings Template (J

Uploaded by: Arlene Ogurick

Position: FAV

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Arlene Ogurick
Baltimore, MD 21210

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.

SB 245 testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Ashima Singh
Position: FAV

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 **Ashima**, and I am a **resident in Baltimore, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I recently had an encounter with a masked ICE agent in the inner harbor. He was a fully masked, armed, and unidentifiable large man. I am a 55+ aged Brown woman. It was night-time and I was having dinner by myself at a restaurant in the area when he walked in and stared at me for a very long time. Nothing happened in the restaurant, but I was terrified of being abducted while walking in the dark to my car several blocks away. NO ONE should have to live with that fear or unsafety every, anywhere, and especially in the U.S.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

As a Brown woman who has experienced unwarranted threats by law-enforcement officers, I can attest to my hesitation in relying on law enforcement for safety. Once, I put words to the fear I felt at the behavior of an officer only to have him take two steps closer, inches from my face, and say, "I don't give a fk." As you can imagine, adding ICE agents to such experiences only prevents me from engaging with my community and relying on law enforcement to ensure my safety.**

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

As an older, Brown woman, I need to know that I can count on law enforcement officers to help ensure my safety, not compromise it. I need to know that law enforcement officers and agents of descalation, not instigators of violence.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB0245 - (287g) Immigration Enforcement Agreement

Uploaded by: Ayla Hurley

Position: FAV

Ayla Hurley
6385 Windharp Way
Columbia, MD 21045
District 13

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0245, Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition
1/22/2026
TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr. & the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Ayla Hurley

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is Ayla Hurley, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB SB0245, Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition, to prevent Maryland from entering into any 287g agreements.

As a lifelong Marylander, I do not want Kristi Noem's ICE agents endangering the every day lives of myself and my neighbors. They have shown to be empowered and entitled bullies, literally rounding up American citizens for no good reason, and have been protected from their crimes and dangerous behavior. Do not allow Maryland to enter into agreements with this organization.

Please let Maryland be a safer place for all of us than elsewhere in our country. Prohibiting this Administration's lawless, bullying, gestapo-esque ICE agents from working with Maryland law enforcement agencies is a big step towards keeping us all safe. I urge you to support SB 0245 and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement is being held to the highest standards of conduct.

ICEtestimony012226.pdf
Uploaded by: Barbara Jarvis
Position: FAV

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 **Barbara Jarvis**, and I am a **resident of Baltimore City, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support this bill because ICE and the Trump administration have clearly demonstrated that they do not care about our laws or people, that they are vicious and determined, and they are harming people indiscriminately regardless of whether those individuals should be apprehended or not. The mission that they have been given and the methods they have been instructed to use are totally out of proportion to the crimes or illegalities they claim to be preventing. I believe that, if unchecked, ICE's attacks on our cities will only accelerate and become even more inhumane, violent and deadly.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

My family personally knows several people who are here legally but who live in fear of being illegally detained and deported. They have taken to carrying papers on them to prove their legality, but we and they still fear for their safety because ICE has shown itself unmoved by legal residency or even citizenship.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Please prohibit such agreements. It is entirely possible to enforce immigration laws in a just and humane way without mobilizing our law enforcement as though we as a city, state, and nation are battling rampant, uncontrolled and blatant crime throughout our streets and countryside. ICE is unnecessarily putting fear into the hearts and minds of legal residents and citizens, unfairly hampering their participation in work, school, medical attention, shopping, travel, and other day-to-day activities. In addition, as clearly and coldly demonstrated by Renee Good's killing (murder, in my opinion), ICE is a danger to all who oppose it.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

BC Testimony - SB0245 - 2026_01_20.pdf
Uploaded by: Benjamin Cruz
Position: FAV

SB0245

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Testimony before Senate Proceedings Committee, January 20 2026

Position: Favorable

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, my name is Benjamin Cruz and I live in SD 41, in Mt. Washington. I write today in support of SB0245, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

In my view, this legislation must be put into effect at the earliest possible date as agreements between Maryland law enforcement entities and I.C.E.

- Encourage racial and ethnic profiling by our law enforcement
- Disproportionately impact Black and Latino communities and individuals
- Demonstrably target individuals with low-level or no criminal history, and
- Creates a climate of fear that harms the relationship between law enforcement and local communities.
- Adds expense to the operations of law enforcement entities – expenses largely paid for by local taxpayers.

Statewide, 92% of 287(g) detainers were for people with either no criminal conviction or a minor misdemeanor such as a traffic violation. Clearly, that does not comport with 287(g)'s purported goal of improved public safety, focusing on violent criminals.

This legislation, by itself, will not afford citizens of Maryland with all the protections needed in the face of overreach by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and related agencies but it removes Maryland law enforcement entities from a position of being collaborators in such flagrant attacks on the rights of Americans in our state.

I respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

Benjamin Cruz

Mount Washington, MD

SB0245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Bernard Fleitman
Position: FAV

1/22/2026

Bernard Fleitman
Laurel, MD 20708

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: Bernard Fleitman

My name is Bernard Fleitman. I am a resident of District 23 and a member of Tikvat Israel synagogue. I submit this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

As a grandchild of immigrants and as a technology executive who has worked extensively with immigrants and as a Jew who is painfully aware of the Brownshirt roundups of the Holocaust where Jews and other 'undesirables' were indiscriminately rounded up due to birth genetics, it is clearly wrong, unjustified and immoral to round up large numbers of people due to their lack of full citizenship.

No high tech business today can exist without immigrants. Indeed many of the largest tech firms (such as Microsoft, Google, etc.) are both led by and significantly staffed by, immigrants. From major innovations (to simply being loyal, tax paying community members), this county has been immeasurable and continually enriched by immigrants. Thus it is a moral and economic imperative to stop baseless immigrant attacks.

There is no reasonable justification for creating - or allowing - this atmosphere of fear and repression. I believe this bill goes a long way towards alleviating that fear and needless repression. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.**

testimony245.pdf
Uploaded by: Betsy Krieger
Position: FAV

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 Betsy Krieger and I am a resident of Baltimore City. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I am horrified by the scenes on our streets and the fear being experienced by immigrants, their families and bystanders. If our police are part of this, they will lose their legitimacy and public safety for everyone will be comprised.

When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bickel testimony on SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Beverly Bickel
Position: FAV

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 Dr. Beverly Bickel, and I am a resident of the Towson community in Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

As a retired professor of languages and cultures, I care deeply about the students, colleagues and neighbors with whom I have worked and lived for several decades. I remember the satisfaction of welcoming recent Afghan refugee families and supporting them as they rebuilt their lives here. I was moved by being welcomed into their homes and learning about the ongoing generosity they offered to each new arriving family. I learned about their educations and professions and felt hopeful about all they would offer our county's communities in which they were settling.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear among our immigrant neighbors and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Our immigrant neighbors are working hard to learn English and continue their own education, support their children, maintain stable jobs and participate in our civic life. But there is so much fear among them that children are missing school, parents are afraid to shop, or go to work. Understandably immigrant neighbors are afraid to participate in creating the vibrant communities we all want and need.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. These oppressive programs divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

We need all of our neighbors to be able to participate in keeping our communities safe and vibrant. We want everyone to be able to respond to the needs of elderly or sick neighbors. Prohibiting these restrictive and offensive 287(g) type programs would allow the full participation of everyone living in our communities and allow us all to do the work of mutual support that enhances what Baltimore County can offer.

For these reasons, I respectfully and strongly urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Candle Testimony SB245 - Ban 287(g).pdf
Uploaded by: Birgit Sharp
Position: FAV

Testimony of CANDLE - Favorable
Regarding Senate Bill 245
Submitted by Birgit Sharp, 1/22/2026

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of CANDLE[1]. Maryland has the right and responsibility to protect our communities and control our law enforcement. CANDLE stands for a ban to 287(g) agreements, for three reasons.

First, participating in 287(g) programs cedes state control over the actions of local police

- 287(g) agreements deputize local officers to enforce federal immigration laws in a manner dictated by federal—not state—policies.
- 287(g) agreements encourage local officers to use the harsh and aggressive immigration tactics being pursued by ICE.[2] Arrests statewide are running two times higher than in 2024, and almost 9 times higher in Frederick County, which participates in 287(g). That growth has been fueled in part by more arrests of individuals with no prior conviction.[3]
- The state lacks statutory guardrails for ensuring that 287(g) officers act in a manner consistent with Maryland's values and the needs of our communities.

Second, public trust is essential for the safety of our communities, and 287(g) agreements destroy that trust in fundamental ways:

- ICE demonstrates increasing violence toward citizens; releases false statements[4]; and rounds up and detains US citizens, Green Card holders, immigrants granted asylum, and immigrants with no criminal history. Local law enforcement's association with these aggressive tactics jeopardizes public confidence in local police and has an immediate chilling impact on public trust.
- People don't report crimes or support investigations when they don't trust local law enforcement, and this mistrust extends beyond the targeted population to others in the community.
- Trust destroyed will take years if not decades to restore.

Third: 287(g) agreements hurt Maryland residents as they boost instances of racial profiling

- The Supreme Court issued a temporary ruling allowing ICE to racially profile, and we expect this may extend to 287(g) police, who already have a history of racial profiling.
- Participating counties could face serious legal exposure due to civil rights lawsuits tied to racial profiling, unlawful detentions, or other violations of laws.

Maryland residents deserve the safety of local law enforcement we can trust. We deserve to spend our taxes on state priorities. Ban 287(g) agreements in MD.

1 Candle is the Community Action Network for Democracy, Liberties and Equality, based in Anne Arundel and Calvert counties. Our membership is close to 150 people.

2 ICE is the Immigration and Customs Enforcement unit in the federal Department of Homeland Security.

3 Estimates are based on data on immigration arrests and detainers published by the Deportation Data Project and extracted on January 15, 2026. See https://deportationdata.org/. The data cover the period from 2024 through mid-October, 2025.

4 *Anne Arundel County Police contradict DHS account of Christmas Eve ICE shooting* https://www.wmar2news.com/news/region/anne-arundel-county/anne-arundel-county-police-contradict-dhs-account-of-christmas-eve-ice-shooting

Testimony rfor SB0245^J ban on 287g agreements wit

Uploaded by: Bob Spear

Position: FAV

Dear Senators,

We are writing to express our support for SB0245 - Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

Last year, when Garrett County Sheriff Bryson signed a 287g agreement with ICE, 100 people showed up for a meeting with the sheriff to voice our concern about that agreement. Although Sheriff Bryson reassured everyone about his good intentions, we remain concerned about the erosion of community support for law enforcement due to the current actions and attitudes of ICE. The simple fact is that ICE wreaks havoc with communities and with local police wherever they go. They are unprofessional, insufficiently trained, and often fail to adhere to standard policing procedures.

Before Maryland counties agree to work with ICE, the Federal Government must remove face coverings from ICE agents; ICE agents must be clearly identified with name badges; agents must use bodycams to record their interactions with civilians; all searches and detentions must be supported by warrants signed by a judge; and ICE should not carry any weapons — they can ask local police for assistance if they feel the need to make an arrest. ICE is important for immigration enforcement, but its current techniques are damaging the public's support for its efforts and for law enforcement generally.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB0245 for the well-being of Maryland as a whole and to maintain our trust in and respect for law enforcement. Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Bob and Mary Helen Spear, Swanton, Maryland

Testimony rfor SB0245^J ban on 287g agreements wit

Uploaded by: Bob Spear

Position: FAV

Written Testimony for SB0245, FAVORABLE, Spear

Dear Senators,

We are writing to express our support for SB0245 - Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

Last year, when Garrett County Sheriff Bryson signed a 287g agreement with ICE, 100 people showed up for a meeting with the sheriff to voice our concern about that agreement. Although Sheriff Bryson reassured everyone about his good intentions, we remain concerned about the erosion of community support for law enforcement due to the current actions and attitudes of ICE. The simple fact is that ICE wreaks havoc with communities and with local police wherever they go. They are unprofessional, insufficiently trained, and often fail to adhere to standard policing procedures.

Before Maryland counties agree to work with ICE, the Federal Government must remove face coverings from ICE agents; ICE agents must be clearly identified with name badges; agents must use bodycams to record their interactions with civilians; all searches and detentions must be supported by warrants signed by a judge; and ICE should not carry any weapons — they can ask local police for assistance if they feel the need to make an arrest. ICE is important for immigration enforcement, but its current techniques are damaging the public's support for its efforts and for law enforcement generally.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB0245 for the well-being of Maryland as a whole and to maintain our trust in and respect for law enforcement. Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Bob and Mary Helen Spear, Swanton, Maryland

SB 245 2026 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Brandon Russell
Position: FAV

January 20, 2026

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is Brandon Russell and I am a resident of St. Mary's County. I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 245 - Prohibition of Immigration Enforcement Agreements, and urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on this legislation.

St. Mary's County is one of several in Maryland where the Sheriff has entered into what's known as a "287(g)" agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. I have read the agreement and it is incredibly one-sided, placing the burden of execution and related costs solely on local law enforcement. This further strains their ability to protect our communities by stretching already thin budgets and, most importantly, by creating distrust between local residents and the Sheriff's Office.

We cannot expect to keep our communities safe when distrust exists. Any law enforcement agency that knowingly engages in these agreements despite the clearly unconstitutional actions of ICE is doing so at the detriment of Marylanders they serve and protect.

Again, I urge a **favorable report** from the committee on Senate Bill 245.

Thank you,

Brandon Russell
Leonardtown, MD
brandon4stmarys@gmail.com

SB 245_Letter of Support.pdf
Uploaded by: Brooke Lierman
Position: FAV

COMPTROLLER of MARYLAND
SERVING THE PEOPLE

Brooke E. Lierman
Comptroller

Michael Bayrd
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

Letter of Support
Senate Bill 245 – Immigration Enforcement Agreements Prohibition
Judicial Proceedings Committee -- January 22, 2026

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is Brooke Lierman, Comptroller of Maryland. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 245.

Maryland is home to a large and diverse immigrant population that plays an essential role in the social and economic life of our state. Immigrants represent nearly 17 percent of Maryland's population and more than 21 percent of our labor force. These residents are deeply integrated into our communities, workplaces, and local economies.

Policies and enforcement practices that create fear and uncertainty among immigrant communities can have consequences that extend beyond the individuals directly affected. When families are reluctant to go to work, attend school, or engage in daily economic activity due to fear of immigration enforcement, those impacts are felt across our state, including by employers, local governments, and essential service providers.

As Maryland's "elected CFO," I want to highlight the economic implications of these dynamics. In April 2024, the Comptroller's Office released a report examining the role of international immigration in Maryland's economy. That analysis found that immigrants make substantial contributions to the state's workforce, tax base, and overall economic growth.

Immigrants account for more than one-fifth of Maryland's civilian labor force and are employed across a wide range of industries that are critical to our economy, including agriculture and food processing, healthcare, science and technology, and education. In some sectors, such as seafood processing and healthcare, immigrant workers are indispensable to maintaining continuity of services and meeting workforce demand. For example, immigrants make up approximately 23 percent of Maryland's STEM workforce and 23 percent of registered nurses statewide.

Immigrant communities also greatly contribute to our state's revenue through taxes and spending. American Immigration Council data show that, in Maryland in 2023, immigrants paid $15.80 billion in federal, state, and local taxes and had a total spending power of $39.5 billion.

As the General Assembly considers difficult budget decisions this session, it is important to recognize that policies that promote stability and trust within immigrant communities also help protect and buoy Maryland's economy and increase our economic resilience. Ensuring that state and local law enforcement agencies are not placed in roles that undermine public trust supports community safety, workforce participation, and economic continuity.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 245. Thank you.

Brooke E. Lierman
Comptroller of Maryland

Merrick letter of support for SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Byron Merrick
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Byron Merrick and I am a resident and voter living in Baltimore, Maryland.

I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I support SB 245 because it will prohibit the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement; and will require the termination of any existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before July 1, 2026.

I care very deeply about this issue as I believe the fabric of our society is made up of mosaic threads woven from the many different immigrant cultures and heritages of our people. Enforcement agreements like 287 (g) serve to weaken these ties between cultures, and undermine trust. They create fear in immigrant communities and threaten public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses - even when they are victims.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. 287 (g) diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers. Local law enforcement agencies need to be able to focus on local, not federal laws. They should NOT be involved in separating families and destabilizing neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Byron R Merrick
2703 Halcyon Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21214
443-695-6341
buzzmerrick@comcast.net

Testimony_on_SB0245_carlavincent.pdf
Uploaded by: Carla Vincent
Position: FAV

Revised Testimony (Favorable)

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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 Carla Vincent, and I am a resident of Gaithersburg, Maryland, in District 17. I write in strong support of Senate Bill 245.

SB 245 is fundamentally a public safety and good-governance measure. Immigration enforcement agreements such as those authorized under Section 287(g) blur the lines between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement in ways that ultimately make communities less safe. When local law enforcement is perceived as an extension of federal immigration authorities, trust erodes—particularly in immigrant communities—and the result is fewer crime reports, fewer witnesses, and less cooperation overall. That is not a theoretical concern; it is a practical one that affects everyone, regardless of immigration status.

I am a second-generation Lebanese American. All four of my grandparents immigrated to the United States between 1910 and 1920. They worked, started small businesses, paid taxes, and built stable lives here. That history shapes my belief that communities are strengthened—not weakened—when people feel safe interacting with government institutions, including the police.

Today, many immigrants and even naturalized citizens in Maryland do not feel that safety. I personally know naturalized citizens who have been advised to carry proof of citizenship at all times out of fear of detention. When lawful residents and citizens feel compelled to live that way, something has gone badly wrong. Public safety depends on people trusting that routine interactions with government will not result in arbitrary or mistaken enforcement actions.

Research consistently shows that immigrants are less likely to commit violent crime than the general population. Yet programs like 287(g) perpetuate fear rather than addressing actual public safety threats. These agreements do not focus local resources on serious or violent crime; instead, they draw local law enforcement into complex civil immigration matters, increasing the risk of racial profiling, wrongful detention, and civil liability—while diverting officers from their core mission of protecting communities.

The consequences ripple outward. Victims and witnesses are less likely to come forward. Parents avoid schools, hospitals, and courthouses. Families lose wage earners without warning, destabilizing households and neighborhoods. None of this makes Maryland safer. In fact, it undermines the very cooperation law enforcement relies on to prevent and solve crime.

SB 245 does not prevent federal authorities from enforcing federal law. It simply establishes clear boundaries, ensuring that Maryland's local law enforcement agencies remain focused on local public safety rather than acting as agents of federal civil immigration enforcement. That clarity protects communities, law enforcement officers, and taxpayers alike.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Vincent

Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(301) 908-7028

CarolStern_SB245_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: CAROL STERN
Position: FAV

January 20, 2026

Carol Stern
4550 North Park Avenue Apt. T106
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Testimony in Support of SB 245 - Favorable
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

TO: Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Carol Stern

I am testifying in favor of as a resident of Montgomery County's District 16 and a member of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda.

My sacred text and tradition teach us to welcome the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Leviticus 19:34 explicitly instructs us to treat immigrants in our land the same as native citizens. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan wrote " teach us to respect the integrity of every human soul be it that of a friend or stranger, child or adult." When we are working to reform our immigration justice system, we must demand that it operates in accordance with these deeply held Jewish beliefs.

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts 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. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

All Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, are entitled to equal protection under the law and deserve to be treated with human dignity. In the face of unprecedented attacks, our immigrant communities in Maryland along with CASA and other non-profits are doing everything they can to protect families and to advocate for their communities. Maryland has the power to stop enabling Trump's cruel mass deportations and be a firewall against authoritarianism. This moment calls for action on the part of the State Legislature. To protect justice and public safety for all Marylanders, please pass SB245 so that Maryland can join Delaware, New Jersey, California, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, and Colorado, who have all ended and/or refused local ICE partnerships.

I respectfully urge a favorable report for SB245.

Anderson Support

Uploaded by: Caroline Anderson

Position: FAV

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Caroline Anderson
Councilmember
One East Franklin Street • Hagerstown, MD 21740
E-mail: canderson@hagerstownmd.org
Telephone: 301.739.8577, Ext. 112
Website: www.hagerstownmd.org

Letter of Support for SB0245

To the Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I write in strong support of Senate Bill 0245.

As a Councilmember for the City of Hagerstown, I have the responsibility to advocate for policies that strengthen public trust, protect families, and promote the dignity and safety of all Maryland residents. As a naturalized citizen of the United States, this issue is also deeply personal to me.

I experienced immigration enforcement firsthand as a child. The presence and actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement were not abstract policy debates in my early life,they were moments of fear, uncertainty, and instability that shaped my understanding of government power and its impact on families. Those experiences remain with me today and inform how I approach my role in public service.

SB0245 represents an important step toward ensuring that state and local resources are used in ways that promote community safety rather than fear. When residents are afraid to interact with local government, law enforcement, schools, or health providers due to immigration concerns, entire communities suffer. Public safety is weakened, not strengthened, when families are driven into the shadows.

This legislation affirms Maryland's commitment to clear boundaries between federal immigration enforcement and state and local governance. It helps ensure that our local governments can focus on their core responsibilities while fostering trust with the residents we serve regardless of immigration status.

In Hagerstown and across Maryland, immigrant families are essential members of our communities. They are business owners, workers, parents, neighbors, and civic contributors. Policies that protect due process and limit unnecessary entanglement with immigration enforcement allow families to live without fear and enable local governments to serve all residents more effectively.

I urge you to support SB0245 and to continue advancing policies that reflect Maryland's values of fairness, safety, and respect for human dignity.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of Maryland.

Respectfully,
Councilmember Caroline Anderson

SB245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Carolyn Mitchell
Position: FAV

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 Carolyn Mitchell, and I am a resident of Annapolis, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support **SB 245** because the conduct of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is lawless and local resources should not be involved. Collaboration with ICE is immoral: there is nothing about the current administration's approach to ICE that is legitimate. When the regime is past history the lawsuits will begin. The legal exposure of all collaborators will be significant – Maryland should not expose itself to this risk by collaborating with this administration to violate the rights of human beings on American soil who are protected by the United States Constitution. Like everyone else in this country who is not one of the indigenous tribes of America, I am from a line of immigrants and the hatred directed at the most recent immigrants is an outrage that cannot be tolerated much less abetted.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carolyn Mitchell

33 Pinkney Street

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Uploaded by: Catherine Bergmann

Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

Catherine Bergmann, PhD, MPH
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

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: Catherine Bergmann

My name is Catherine Bergmann. I am a resident of District 22. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I have lived in Riverdale Park for over 30 years; my husband and I raised our two children here. I am a retired clinical psychologist with a background in public health.

My German-Jewish parents fled Nazi Germany. Many of my relatives did not escape; they were taken from their homes and deported to concentration camps in other countries where they were tortured and murdered. My parents taught me that all Germans were responsible for the actions of their government.

I have spent my life wondering if it could happen here. I believe it is happening right now. Illinois attorney general Kwame Raoul said: "Border Patrol agents and ICE officers have acted as occupiers rather than officers of the law. They randomly, and often violently, question residents. Without warrants or probable cause, they brutally detain citizens and non-citizens alike. They use tear gas and other chemical weapons against bystanders, injuring dozens, including children, the elderly and local police officers." Recently an ICE officer executed a mother in Minneapolis for no reason.

We cannot allow this to go on in our state. The 287g agreements invite ICE to work here in Maryland and facilitate their actions. I speak out against this in memory of my ancestors killed by the Nazis.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.

SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Catherine Maslen
Position: FAV

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

My name is Catherine Maslen and I am a resident and community member of Baltimore City. I am writing in support of SB 245- Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

I have been a primary care physician for over twenty years in Baltimore and have been in association with either as work colleagues, employees or patients with many productive members of the immigrant community. These are people that are currently experiencing extreme anxiety and we are at risk of losing these people who contribute so much to our city.

I support SB245 because immigration enforcement such as 287 (g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement they are less likely to report crimes, seek help or cooperate as witnesses–even if they are the victims.

Not only are we seeing wrongful detention and injury of people of color, we are also seeing so many peaceful protesters being targeted in our communities by I.C.E. violence which seems to be perpetrated with impunity.

Programs like 287g divert local resources away from community protection and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. This is terrible for our city and our Maryland communities in general

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Maslen

Testimony on Senate Bill 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Catherine Morrison
Position: FAV

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 Catherine Morrison, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. I am writing **in support of SB 245** – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

This issue is very important to me because of my grandchildren. They were raised for their first five years by an amazing nanny from El Salvador. She helped create the loving grandkids they are becoming. She entered the US illegally, escaping an abusive domestic situation. While the coyotes didn't mistreat her, the trip was extremely difficult. She tells the story of crossing the Rio Grande carrying her infant daughter over her head. She came to this country seeking a better life and she found it, marrying a U.S. citizen and raising her daughter who has recently graduated from the U of Md.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims. Since the enforcement began she has been too frightened to leave her home. She has been diagnosed with Lupus and I fear that her reluctance to leave her home will worsen her health. Clearly it has already interfered with her emotional wellbeing, not to mention the wellbeing of her family and mine.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. Our police do a great job in enforcing Maryland law, but should not have their attention diverted to ICE enforcement. The federal government already has enough boots on the streets and are aggressively recruiting even more. We should not allow our scarce police resources to be wasted on the efforts to find and deport law-abiding residents of our state. We need them protecting us, not terrorizing our neighbors.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.
Thank you for your time and consideration.
Catherine Morrison

SB245 CASA
Uploaded by: Cathryn Jackson
Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB245
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,

CASA supports Senate Bill 245. CASA is a national organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class: Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities.

With a membership of over 173,000 members, CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. For nearly forty years, CASA has employed grassroots community organizing to bring our communities closer together and fight for justice, while simultaneously providing vital services to communities across the state and beyond.

In 2025, CASA responded to 567 ICE detentions in Maryland. These ICE detentions, part of the estimated 4,000 detentions across our state, tell us that our immigrant community is being targeted with aggressive, violent, and cruel intensity. The federal administration's mass deportation agenda has unleashed fear and terror in our community. 287(g) feeds into this fear and terror.

The 287(g) program, which deputizes local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws, is not only ineffective but actively harmful to Maryland communities. Despite being misleadingly framed as a public safety measure by federal immigration officials, 287(g) agreements have consistently resulted in racial profiling, eroded trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities, diverted local resources from critical law enforcement functions, and exposed counties to costly legal liabilities.

CASA members have experienced the harm of 287(g) firsthand. CASA represented a member who was illegally racially profiled by officers in Frederick County for the "crime" of eating a sandwich outside her workplace. Even though Frederick's program is ostensibly limited to jailhouse enforcement, the officers detained her to question her about her immigration status. Over the next decade, she was forced to fight to remain in the United States with her family, including her U.S. citizen children, for no reason other than the fact that those law enforcement

officers deputized themselves as immigration enforcement agents.

1. **287(g) Agreements Are a Betrayal of Maryland's Values**

Maryland has a long-standing commitment to protecting immigrant communities, keeping families together, and rejecting policies that promote fear and division. The 287(g) program is inconsistent with these values. It perpetuates racial profiling, erodes trust in law enforcement, and advances the aggressive anti-immigrant agenda led by the Trump administration.

We have already taken decisive action in Maryland to sever ties with ICE. In 2021, we passed the Dignity Not Detention Act, ending Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs), which allowed local jails to detain immigrants on ICE's behalf. This legislation was passed in response to growing concerns about ICE's inhumane treatment of detained immigrants, the lack of oversight in detention facilities, and the devastating impact of family separation. The Dignity Not Detention Act reflected our state's recognition that private detention contracts and ICE partnerships do not enhance public safety but instead sow fear and distrust in immigrant communities. Ending 287(g) is a logical next step - it aligns with the same principles and the broader debate that led to this legislative victory.

2. **287(g) Undermines Public Safety and Erodes Trust**

When law enforcement officers are seen as extensions of ICE, it creates deep and lasting distrust between immigrant communities and the police. This breakdown in trust discourages Black and brown immigrants from reporting crimes, seeking help, and cooperating with law enforcement - making communities less safe for everyone.

Latinos are 44% less likely to contact the police if they are victims of a crime due to fear that officers will question their immigration status or that of their loved ones.[1] This fear is only exacerbated in jurisdictions with programs like 287(g), where local law enforcement is electively taking on the job of ICE instead of focusing on their core mission to protect the people of their jurisdiction.

As immigration enforcement intensifies, fewer immigrant women seek protection from domestic violence by petitioning for legal status under the Violence Against Women Act.[2] When victims are too afraid to come forward, abusers remain unchecked, and communities suffer the consequences.

Studies have shown that 'Hispanic' residents reported lower levels of trust in the police after 287g implementation.[3] Research indicates that this decline in trust is not limited to law enforcement but extends to other government agencies and service providers funded by the

[1] https://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/03/287gJurisdictions-report.pdf
[2] https://conference.iza.org/conference_files/JuniorSenior_2019/arenas-arroyo_e24280.pdf
[3] https://ninercommons.charlotte.edu/islandora/object/etd%3A168

government. When entire communities are afraid to engage with public institutions, access to essential services declines, creating instability and further marginalization.

Under the current federal administration, immigrants feel particularly vulnerable and hesitant to access services for which they are eligible, even including things like health care for their U.S. citizen children. We hear from our members that they are afraid to attend medical appointments or take their children to school. This fear is only heightened and validated when every police car they pass on the road is acting as an extension of federal immigration enforcement. During this time, we should be focused on ensuring that people feel safe, not threatened.

When communities cannot trust law enforcement, public safety deteriorates. Survivors of domestic violence suffer in silence, and those who need help the most are left without support. Maryland cannot afford to maintain a program that erodes trust, endangers immigrant families, and undermines the work of local law enforcement. Ending 287(g) is not just a matter of immigration policy—it is a matter of public safety, racial justice, and human dignity. Maryland must stand firm in its commitment to protecting all residents and fostering trust between communities and law enforcement.

3. **287(g) Wastes Taxpayer Dollars and Drains Local Resources**

Contrary to the stated goal of enhancing public safety, 287(g) agreements actually make communities less safe. These agreements divert resources from local law enforcement priorities and create fear among immigrant families, making it harder for police to build trust and effectively protect all residents.

Effective policing relies on strong relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. When residents fear that any interaction with the police could lead to deportation, they are far less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or cooperate in investigations. As described above, programs like 287(g) create widespread distrust, making it significantly more difficult for immigrant families to work with law enforcement and undermining public safety for everyone.

Beyond damaging trust, 287(g) agreements force localities to divert critical resources toward immigration enforcement instead of focusing on pressing community needs. Local governments spend staff time and taxpayer dollars on tasks such as investigating immigration status, responding to ICE inquiries, collecting data for ICE, and notifying the agency about inmates' release schedules. These agreements shift law enforcement priorities away from addressing violent crime and public safety concerns, instead using local police as federal immigration agents. Our community's tax dollars should not be wasted on carrying out ICE's agenda at the expense of real public safety initiatives.

Law enforcement leaders across the country have voiced their concerns about local police involvement in immigration enforcement. The Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)—which represents the largest law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and Canada—has warned against entangling local law enforcement in federal immigration matters. The Police Foundation found that due to Congress's failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform, states and localities have been forced to take immigration enforcement into their own hands—diverting attention and resources from protecting communities against more serious threats[4].

287(g) agreements are a failed policy. They do not improve public safety, they do not build trust, and they do not make communities stronger. Instead, they weaken law enforcement's ability to do its job, waste taxpayer dollars, and make immigrant families live in fear. Ending 287(g) is a necessary step toward ensuring that Maryland's law enforcement agencies are focused on keeping all residents safe—not acting as immigration enforcers for a federal agency.

4. 287(g) is Racially Biased and Opens the Door to Civil Rights Violations

There is overwhelming evidence that this program has been used to unfairly criminalize immigrants based on their appearance, language, and perceived nationality. By giving local law enforcement the power to enforce federal immigration laws, 287(g) widens the door to racial discrimination, eroding civil rights and public trust.

ICE's influence in the criminal legal system actively undermines efforts to reduce biased policing. When local law enforcement officers are granted immigration enforcement powers, racial profiling becomes an incentive rather than an aberration. Police officers who know that an arrest can lead to immigration detention are more likely to stop or detain individuals who "look" or "sound" foreign, reinforcing systemic biases and making communities less safe.

Frederick County offers a stark example of how 287(g) fuels racial profiling right here in Maryland. A 2017 study found that the program led to a significantly higher number of arrests of Hispanic residents by the Sheriff's Office than would have occurred otherwise.[5] The case of Medrano v. Jenkins[6] further exposed the discriminatory nature of 287(g). In 2018, Latina Frederick resident Sara Medrano was unlawfully stopped by two sheriff's deputies while driving with her daughter and grandchildren. The deputies questioned her about her immigration status and attempted to detain her for ICE in clear violation of the Fourth Amendment. Medrano later discovered that her supposed "broken tail light" was fully functional—proving that she had been stopped simply for being Latina. The case was settled, awarding her damages and forcing Sheriff Jenkins to issue a written apology.

[4] https://immigrationimpact.com/2009/05/21/police-foundation-immigration-report-287g/
[5] https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/233150241700500305
[6] https://www.aclu-md.org/en/cases/medrano-v-jenkins

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office has a documented history of harassing members of the RISE Coalition, unlawfully questioning Latinx residents— including U.S. citizens—on suspected immigration violations. Sheriff Jenkins himself has publicly expressed anti-immigrant rhetoric, going as far as calling DACA recipients "hardcore gangbangers."

The same racial biases that lead to the over-policing of Black communities are mirrored in 287(g) enforcement. Black immigrants are disproportionately arrested, charged, and incarcerated in the United States due to systemic racial biases in policing and sentencing. This overrepresentation in the criminal legal system significantly increases their likelihood of being targeted for deportation under 287(g). Although Black immigrants make up only 7.2% of the non-citizen population, they account for 20.3% of those deported on criminal grounds—an alarming disparity that exposes the racist nature of the program.[7]

For all of the reasons above, CASA urges a favorable report, with amendments on SB245.

Contact: Cathryn Jackson, cjackson@wearecasa.org, 301-807-0788

[7] https://baji.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/sobi-fullreport-jan22.pdf

SB0245_CindyBrach_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Cecile Brach
Position: FAV

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.

SB0245_Public_Safety_Immigration_Enforcement_Agree
Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY FOR SB0245
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0245 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are steadfast in their resistance to the involvement of Maryland state and local law enforcement agents in federal immigration enforcement activities. The bill seeks to ensure that state and local resources are not used to enforce federal immigration laws, thereby protecting the rights and safety of all residents, regardless of their immigration status. Additionally, the bill prohibits the state, local governments, county sheriffs, and their agents from entering into immigration enforcement agreements with federal authorities (287(g) agreements) while mandating the termination of any existing agreements by July 1, 2026.

By limiting the involvement of state and local law enforcement in federal immigration enforcement, the bill aims to build trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, encouraging cooperation and reporting of crimes. This can lead to safer communities overall. Furthermore, the bill ensures that state and local resources are focused on public safety priorities rather than federal immigration enforcement, promoting a more efficient and just use of resources. There is no jurisdiction in the state that has extra funds to allow their police force to participate in federal immigration enforcement without compromising the services they are obligated to provide.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and other legislation that treats law-abiding immigrants with the fairness all Marylanders deserve. We believe that by prioritizing the well-being and rights of every resident, we can foster a more inclusive and secure community for everyone.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition wholeheartedly supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

FAVORABLE SB0245_ Cesar Diaz.pdf
Uploaded by: César Díaz
Position: FAV

Council President
César Díaz

Council Vice President
Katie Nash

FREDERICK
MARYLAND

Council Members
Derek Shacelford
Libby Taylor
Peter Brehm
Scott Lasher
Sarah Hempel Irani

City Council President César Díaz
The City of Frederick
101 N. Court St
Frederick, MD 21704

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 245, which would prohibit 287(g) agreements in the State of Maryland.

This legislation is necessary to protect due process, preserve public safety, and prevent local governments from being drawn into federal enforcement practices that have repeatedly produced constitutional violations, legal liability, and widespread community harm without any corresponding public safety benefit.

Frederick County provides one of the clearest examples of why statewide action is required. It has operated under a 287(g) agreement since 2008, making it one of the longest-running programs in the country. Over that time, data shows that 80% of the 2,069 individuals subjected to 287(g) detainers were only charged with misdemeanor offences. Many were transferred to federal custody before their criminal cases were resolved, undermining the presumption of innocence and basic due process protections.

Beyond the courtroom, 287(g) creates pervasive fear in the community. I represent District 2 in Frederick, which includes Frederick's Golden Mile, the county's most diverse and economically productive corridor. Immigrant residents live with the constant belief that any interaction with local law enforcement could result in detention and transfer to immigration authorities. Residents are afraid to report crimes, afraid to serve as witnesses, afraid to call for help. Parents fear sending their children to school. Adults fear going to work. Local businesses suffer when residents are afraid to leave their homes, weakening the economic stability of the entire community.

Claims that 287(g) improves public safety are false. In Frederick County, overall crime declined by only 4 percent in 2024. During the same period, Montgomery County and Prince George's County, neither of which participate in 287(g), experienced larger crime reductions of 7 percent and 6 percent respectively. Jurisdictions without 287(g) are able to achieve equal or better public safety outcomes without the accompanying community harms.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Sincerely,

César Díaz

Frederick City Council President

FAVORABLE SB0245_RevCharleneBelsomZellmer.pdf
Uploaded by: Charlene Belsom Zellmer
Position: FAV

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,

I am Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer and I am a **resident of D16 in Bethesda, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

In my many years of serving the community and Nation as an immigrant advocate, I have come to learn and experience the distrust engendered by 287g agreements, including in our State. Fear and intimidation are rampant amongst our neighbors, friends, and family members who feel threatened with government enforcement in this aggressive environment of profiling and illegal abductions and who fear being separated from their loved ones. We have been called to provide pastoral care, nutrition and healthcare support, and presence with families who, in many cases, are seeking to regularize their immigration status in this complicated system filled with roadblocks. In the faith community, we encourage radical hospitality for the world's traditions include welcoming the stranger across scriptures.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

With firm trust amongst all institutions for all residents of our community, all will feel safer and welcomed. Those currently profiled would, instead, be able to report crime in the community thus protecting themselves, their families, and all of us. This climate of mutual respect, dignity, and love is what we try to achieve in a peaceful world. Eliminating 287g agreements will bring us closer together.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer, MDiv
Bethesda, Maryland D16

MDGA26_SB0245_CharlesArian_JUFJ_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Charles Arian
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

JEWS UNITED FOR JUSTICE
THINK JEWISHLY. ACT LOCALLY.

Rabbi Charles L. Arian
Montgomery Village, MD 20886

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: Rabbi Charles L. Arian, on behalf of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ)

My name is Rabbi Charles L. Arian. I am a resident of District 39. I am the rabbi of Kehilat Shalom Congregation in Montgomery Village and an appointed member of the Social Justice Commission of my denomination, Conservative/Masorti Judaism. I am an active member of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, and a participant and supporter of Jews United for Justice. **I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.** JUFJ organizes over 6,000 Jews and allies from across Maryland in support of social, racial, and economic justice campaigns at the state and local levels**.**

The most-repeated commandment in the entire Torah is the commandment to love the stranger, to treat the stranger with kindness, and to refrain from oppressing the stranger. While no policy can claim 100 percent support in the Jewish community, the majority of mainstream denominations joined a lawsuit against the revocation of the Sensitive Areas Policy. Jewish communities across this state are heartbroken and enraged by the ongoing actions by the federal government targeting immigrant communities because we know that our wellbeing and safety are inextricably linked to our immigrant neighbors. We are moved to action both by our values and our histories.

Like most American Jews of my generation, I am the grandchild of immigrants. Growing up I heard stories from my immigrant relatives of the hardships they suffered on the way from the Czarist Empire to the United States, sneaking across borders and bribing border guards (they walked on foot from Ilya, Belarus, to Antwerp, Belgium, a distance of over 1000 miles.) I learned of the difficulties they had adjusting to a new land and a new language. My great-grandparents lived in the same apartment as my father did growing up, which is why his first language was Yiddish and he did not learn English until he began kindergarten, even though he lived in Brooklyn. Only recently did I learn that my grandmother had an older half sister who was denied entry at Ellis Island and as a result went to Mexico. Even more recently I reunited

with our cousins there over Zoom. I would love to meet them in person but in good conscience cannot advise Mexican citizens to enter this country even with a visa.

Since the summer of 2025, I have been participating in various organizations which observe and document ICE activities. A few weeks ago I witnessed someone being taken into custody during an ICE check-in, and there were a significant number of what seemed like ICE personnel outside the building even though their uniforms only said "Federal Officer" or "Homeland Security." There were also two officers from MCPD who were chatting in a very friendly way with the ICE personnel, although I did not observe them participating in the actual detention.

We all know that even US citizens have been detained by ICE, sometimes for several weeks, and we all saw video of the homicide of Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis on January 7. When immigrants or even native born citizens who "look like" immigrants are afraid to call the police after being the victim of or witnessing a crime, we are all less safe. When children are afraid to go to school our society is less prepared and less competitive. When people are afraid to seek medical care, our society is less healthy.

For all the above reasons, passage of SB0245 will not only benefit immigrants. It will benefit the citizens of Maryland in general. It is incumbent upon the General Assembly to do everything within its power to end local collaboration with ICE and other federal agencies targeting immigrant communities and tearing families apart. This must include finally banning 287(g) agreements in our state.

On behalf of JUFJ, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.

SB0245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement A

Uploaded by: Charlotte Hoffman

Position: FAV

Charlotte Persephone Hoffman, Esq. (they/she)
Policy Director
charlotte@transmaryland.org

Thursday January 22, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony of Trans Maryland

IN SUPPORT OF

Senate Bill #245: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Trans Maryland is a multi-racial, multi-gender, trans-led community power building organization dedicated to Maryland's trans community. Because Trans Maryland believes in protecting the civil rights of all Marylanders—regardless of how they came to be here—from oppressive policing that is all-too-often based more on racial profiling than on legitimate law enforcement interests, we are testifying today in strong support of Senate Bill 245.

Over the past year, we have seen a dramatic increase in Maryland jurisdictions entering into immigration enforcement agreements, commonly referred to as 287(g) agreements, with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), with the number more than doubling from three counties before 2025 to eight counties today. While the terms of these agreements differ, they all have the effect of making Maryland police complicit in the ongoing human rights violations committed by ICE in the name of immigration enforcement.

Since January 2025 alone, those abuses have included:

- The systematized racial profiling of Latines based on their ethnicity—a practice acknowledged and endorsed by the conservative Supreme Court on its shadow docket;[1]
- The extended—and often highly abusive—detainment of American citizens without evidence of a crime;[2]

[1] *Noem v. Perdomo*, 606 U.S. __ (Sept. 25, 2025), *available at* https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a169_5h25.pdf.
[2] *See* Nicole Foy, "We Found That More Than 170 U.S. Citizens Have Been Held by Immigration Agents. They've Been Kicked, Dragged and Detained for Days," *Pro Publica* (October 16, 2025), *available at* https://www.propublica.org/article/immigration-dhs-american-citizens-arrested-detained-against-will.

TRANS MARYLAND

Charlotte Persephone Hoffman, Esq. (they/she)
Policy Director
charlotte@transmaryland.org

- The systemic abuse and neglect of people in ICE custody,[3] leading to the deaths of at least 32 people in 2025;[4]
- The illegal arrest, deportation to El Salvador CECOT megaprison, and re-arrest of Kilmar Abrego Garcia upon his return to the United States;[5] and, most recently,
- The extrajudicial killing of Renee Good in Minneapolis—a killing the US Justice Department has refused to investigate in good faith.[6]

To be clear, this is only a small sampling of the ongoing civil rights violations committed by and in the name of ICE.

While it is not in Maryland's power to stop these abuses from happening, this state does have the power to say that it will not be a party to them, will not condone them, and will not assist in their perpetuation. By prohibiting any entity or agent of the state of Maryland from participating in a 287(g) agreement with ICE, Senate Bill 245 takes a critical step to end our complicity in ICE's abuses. For these reasons, Trans Maryland **strongly urges a favorable report of Senate Bill 245.**

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[3] *See, e.g.,* Claudia Lauer, "Senate report details dozens of cases of medical neglect in federal immigration detention centers," *PBS News* (Oct. 31, 2025), *available at* https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/senate-report-details-dozens-of-cases-of-medical-neglect-in-federal-immigration-detention-centers.

[4] *See* Maanvi Singh et al, "2025 was ICE's deadliest year in two decades," *The Guardian* (Jan. 4, 2026), *available at* https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2026/jan/04/ice-2025-deaths-timeline.

[5] *See* Travis Loller, "Justice Department pushed to prosecute Kilmar Abrego Garcia only after deportation mistake, judge's order says," *PBS News* (Dec. 30, 2025), *available at* https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/justice-department-pushed-to-prosecute-kilmar-abrego-garcia-only-after-deportation-mistake-judges-order-says.

[6] *See* Robert Mackey, "Justice department 'not investigating' Renee Good killing in contrast to 2020 inquiry on George Floyd death," *The Guardian* (Jan. 18, 2026), *available at* https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/18/justice-department-ice-renee-good-george-floyd-minneapolis.

SB 245 Favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Chauna Brocht
Position: FAV

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 Chauna Brocht, and I am a resident of Baltimore City. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chauna Brocht

2509 Guilford Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21218

Chris Apple - SB0245 - FAVORABLE.pdf
Uploaded by: Chris Apple
Position: FAV

Chris Apple
6385 Windharp Way
Columbia, MD 21045
District 13

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 00245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Jan 22, 2026

TO: Chair William Smith & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is Chris Apple, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0245, Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

In the past year, ICE has shown numerous times that they do not respect the best interests of the communities they police. They have abducted our neighbors, committed violence and intimidation against Marylanders, and deported Marylanders without due process or without sufficient cause. Who has not heard the story of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, deported without reason and in defiance of a court order that mandated he remain in the US? ICE has shown no respect for the rule of law, and no respect for Maryland communities. They only wish to inflict as much fear and humiliation as possible.

That is why all Maryland governments must end collaboration with ICE immediately. A 287g agreement is not a tool to protect our borders – instead, it is a license to allow petty thugs to intimidate our brown and Black neighbors. A 287g agreement does not make us safer, on the contrary, it makes our state considerably more hazardous.

I urge you to support SB 0245 and help ensure that Maryland's communities are kept safe from the true villains of our time – ICE.

Christian_Benford_SB 245 Public Safety - Immigrati
Uploaded by: Christian Benford
Position: FAV

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 Christian Benford, and I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I am a Latino man and was raised by a Salvadoran tradesman and survivor of war. He was an incredibly hard-working man. Growing up, I was incredibly aware of how uncomfortable him and I felt when he interacted with people in public. Cashiers speaking to me instead of him because they assumed he didn't speak English. Someone interrogating his place of origin, because he'd always say New Jersey. Or law enforcement profiling him to ask about his citizenship status.

When I was 8 years old, I got to watch him receive his citizenship. This didn't stop any of those interactions. Those based in fear and the negative perception of immigrants in this country. It is why I have committed myself to supporting our immigrant communities through mutual aid efforts, "know your rights" canvassing, and, of course, and speaking against methods of law enforcement that indiscriminately target individuals, such as the discriminatory 287(g) program.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

The National Immigrant Justice Center says Latinos are 44% less likely to report victimized crimes, afraid their status will be questioned, making everyone less safe. But what does our Sheriff Chuck Jenkins, an early adopter of the program, say about it? That it's the reason Frederick County has a lower crime rate compared to neighboring counties.

The National Incident-Based Reporting System data for 2024 shows neighboring Carroll County had a 22% lower crime rate per 100,000 people than Frederick County and had no 287(g) program then. But the 287(g) program is not bad because it's not an effective crime reducer, it is because of the association of immigration with crime when countless studies show it's political scapegoating. Advocates for retaining the program show their preoccupation with unjustly targeting and criminalizing immigrants instead of tackling real inequities and community issues.

In Maryland, a majority of those arrested had no criminal convictions and no criminal charge. The only violation was unauthorized presence, a civil misdemeanor. 287(g) is effective at targeting those posing no public safety threat. Nationally in 2024, according to the TRAC Data Project, three-quarters of those deported through 287(g) had no criminal convictions. In Maryland, for every individual deported through 287(g) with a serious level 1 conviction, 115 individuals had no criminal conviction at all.

If we are to be a state that delivers justice to all of neighbors, we must not associate ourselves with programs like 287(g) that encourage racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention or utilize local law enforcement to help fuel Donald Trump's violent mass deportation program.

While in Frederick our 287(g) program is jail-based, this does not stop law enforcement from targeting individuals with erroneous charges, detaining them, and holding them at our detention center for ICE. If we are to ban 287(g) agreements in Maryland completely, we can help assure our neighbors that Maryland will not participate in a program that targets them for speaking the wrong language at the wrong time or existing while black or brown.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB245 AFSCME Council 3 testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Christian Gobel
Position: FAV

1410 Bush Street (Suite A)
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Phone: 410-547-1515
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Patrick Moran – President

SB245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

FAVORABLE

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 supports Senate Bill 245. Senate Bill 245 prohibits the state and local governments from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement with the federal government that authorizes the state or local governments to enforce civil immigration law. These agreements, commonly referred to as 287(g) agreements, authorize state and local law enforcement to perform functions of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement.[1]

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 represents approximately 55,000 public service workers across varying levels of government including city, county, state, and higher education. AFSCME members are on the frontlines every day delivering critical public services our communities depend on.

The new federal administration has swiftly expanded immigration enforcement throughout the United States and instilled fear and chaos in our communities through their enforcement tactics and actions. Federal immigration agents have acted against residents, regardless of their immigration status, with reckless tactics including profiling people based on their race, targeting people with pepper spray and rubber bullets, smashing car windows and dragging people from their cars, and shooting unarmed civilians.[2] State and local governments should not cooperate with federal immigration authorities, at a time when this federal administration is stretching the limits of their power to instill fear and division in our communities. In Maryland, certain jurisdictions have signed 287(g) agreements, but fortunately, the overwhelming majority of jurisdictions have not.[3]

AFSCME supports the prohibition and termination of existing 287(g) agreements in Maryland. State and local governments must prioritize state and local public safety priorities. Current staffing shortages impacting state and local law enforcement only emphasize the need to prioritize Maryland's public

[1] The Leadership Conference Education Fund, *287(g) is Impacting Communities Across the United States. Here's What You Need to Know.* June 2025, https://civilrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/287g-resource-sheet.pdf.
[2] *See, e.g.,* Jaclyn Diaz, *Events in Minneapolis show how immigration enforcement has changed. What's the impact?* National Public Radio, January 17, 2026, https://www.npr.org/2026/01/17/nx-s1-5676240/minneapolis-immigration-enforcement-tactics; Jon Schuppe and Erik Ortiz, *Trump's DHS has shot 11 people during immigration enforcement operations since September*, NBC News, January 16, 2026, https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-shootings-list-border-patrol-trump-immigration-operations-rcna254202; J.T. Moodee Lockman, *Video Shows ICE agents taking Maryland woman into custody after smashing through car window*, CBS News Baltimore, April 11, 2025, https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/maryland-woman-arrest-ice-immigration-el-salvador-berrios/.
[3] William Ford, *Attorney General limits what Maryland police can do when working with federal immigration authorities*, Maryland Matters, October 15, 2025, https://marylandmatters.org/2025/10/15/attorney-general-limits-what-maryland-police-can-do-when-working-with-federal-authorities/.

safety priorities, not perpetuating an inhumane federal immigration policy at the hands of the current federal administration.

We urge the committee to support SB245.

Christianne Marguerite SB245 Written Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Christianne Marguerite
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792
ProgressiveMaryland.org
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Bill Title: SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
POSITION: Favorable
To: Senator William Smith, Chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Christianne Marguerite, Member of Progressive Maryland
Date: Thursday, January 20, 2026

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christianne Marguerite. I am a proud Maryland resident and member of Progressive Maryland. I am the wife of an immigrant from the Dominican Republic and the daughter of an immigrant from Trinidad and Tobago.

I call this state my home, and I submit this testimony in **strong support of legislation to ban Maryland participation in the harmful federal 287(g) program.**

For my family, this issue is deeply personal. Immigration is not an abstract policy debate for us; it is a lived reality. My family's story is one of hard work, contribution, and belonging. Like so many immigrant families in Maryland, we are invested in our communities, our neighbors, and the future of this state.

The 287(g) program undermines public safety and community trust. When local law enforcement is entangled with federal immigration enforcement, immigrant communities are less likely to report crimes, cooperate with police, or seek help when they need it, making everyone less safe. The program incentivizes racial profiling, creates fear, and diverts law enforcement from their core mission of protecting and serving their communities.

Policies like 287(g) also send a chilling message to immigrant families that they are not fully welcome here, even when they are deeply rooted in Maryland. By banning participation in the 287(g) program, Maryland can lead with compassion and common sense, because public safety is strongest when trust exists between communities and law enforcement.

I urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 245** and move Maryland toward a more just, humane, and safe approach to public safety and immigration.

Respectfully,
Christianne Marguerite

CG_Testimony on SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Christina Getrich
Position: FAV

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 Christina Getrich, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I'm writing in my capacity as a scholar and researcher of immigration and resident of this state. Immigrants make up more than a third of our state population and an important component of our communities. I grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland surrounded by immigrant friends and neighbors who enriched my childhood and inspired me to focus on immigration as a topic of inquiry as a graduate student and now professor. My research over the last 30 years has documented the deleterious impacts of immigration enforcement on local communities, focusing specifically on youth in mixed-immigration status families.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

My present research on immigration enforcement in Maryland shows that starting in January 2025, immigrant enforcement fear has surged, having a negative effect on school and work attendance, food and housing security, and health care access, as immigrants and their family members avoid leaving the house whenever necessary. This has a profound ripple effect even on U.S. citizens and permanent residents in mixed-status families.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Maryland has an opportunity to improve public safety and trust with immigrant and allied communities with the passage of SB 245 and should send a strong signal in support of our immigrant neighbors.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Luminus Network SB0245 FAVORABLE 287g testimony.pd
Uploaded by: Christine (Tina) Horn
Position: FAV

10400 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 450
Columbia MD 21044

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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,

The Luminus Network respectfully offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

The Luminus Network was founded in 1981 in Howard County as the Foreign-born Immigrant Resource Network (FIRN) to help immigrant students at Howard Community College assimilate to life in central Maryland. We are currently serving immigrants across central Maryland with immigration legal services, including such services as work permit renewals, asylum applications, DACA renewals, other adjustments of status, and U-Visas. Luminus is guided by our core values in everything we do: community, trustworthy, inclusive, supportive, and sustainable.

U-Visas provide an immigration pathway for victims of serious crime who assist authorities in investigations or prosecutions. U-Visas are good public policy, as someone willing to prey upon immigrants is likely to prey upon others in the community as well. 287(g) agreements undermine public safety by making immigrant crime victims reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers. The 287(g) program erodes trust between communities and local police and, as a CATO Institute study concluded, is "not an effective anti-crime tool."[i]

At its core, **SB 245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

We have seen several chilling effects in central Maryland: parents are reluctant to send their children to school, harming the children's academic futures, families are frightened to leave their homes, increasing demand on charitable support for food deliveries, and rumors spread through immigrant communities, creating fear and fomenting panic.

For these reasons, the Luminus Network urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

[i] Nowrasteh, Alex. "287(g) Does Not Fight Crime, But It Does Increase Assaults against Police Officers." Cato.Org, CATO Institute, 11 Apr. 2018, www.cato.org/blog/287g-does-not-fight-crime-it-does-increase-assaults-against-police-officers

SEIU Local 500 Testimony in Support of SB 245 2026

Uploaded by: Christopher Cano

Position: FAV

Testimony - SB 245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition
Favorable
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026
Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairman Smith & Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents more than 20,000 public sector and nonprofit workers across Maryland, including educators, public employees, and frontline workers who serve diverse communities every day. Many of our members derive from or live and work alongside immigrant families. They understand firsthand that community safety depends on trust, not fear.

Senate Bill 245 takes an important and necessary step to protect that trust by prohibiting the State, local governments, and county sheriffs from entering into immigration enforcement agreements that deputize local officials to carry out federal civil immigration enforcement. The bill also responsibly requires the termination of any existing agreements by July 1, 2026, ensuring clarity and consistency statewide.

When local law enforcement or public agencies are entangled in federal immigration enforcement, the result is not increased safety—it is the opposite. These agreements undermine public trust, discourage immigrant communities from reporting crimes or cooperating with investigations, and place frontline public workers in roles they were never trained for and should never be required to perform.

For SEIU Local 500 members, this issue is also about workplace safety and clarity of mission. Public servants should be focused on providing services, ensuring public safety, and supporting community well-being—not enforcing civil immigration law under

federal agreements that expose workers and communities to harm, confusion, and liability.

SB 245 reinforces a clear and appropriate division of responsibility: civil immigration enforcement is a federal function, not a local or state one. By drawing this line, the bill protects civil liberties, promotes effective policing, and helps ensure that all Maryland residents—regardless of immigration status—can access public services without fear.

This legislation reflects Maryland's values of fairness, inclusion, and smart public safety policy. It strengthens communities, supports public workers, and makes clear that cooperation with law enforcement should never come at the cost of basic human dignity.

For these reasons, SEIU Local 500 respectfully urges the members of this committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs
SEIU Local 500

SB0245 2026 Public Safety - Immigration Enforceme

Uploaded by: Chuck Koplik

Position: FAV

Committee:	**Judicial Proceedings Committee**
Testimony:	**SB0245 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**
Organization:	**Jewish Community Relations Council of Howard County, MD**
Submitting	**Laura Salganik**
Position:	**FAVORABLE**
Hearing Date:	**January 22, 2026**

Dear Chair Will Smith, Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher and Committee Members:

The Jewish Community Relations Council is submitting this testimony in favor of the Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

Jewish law says, "*When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The sojourners who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."* The insistence that we behave with care, equity, and love toward the stranger is the most-repeated command in the entire Torah. It is because of this that we believe that we need to prohibit Maryland, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement; and requiring the termination of any existing immigration enforcement agreements.

Every day in Maryland, at least ten immigrant families are violently separated, leaving thousands of children without a parent and shredding the social fabric of our communities. The deportation dragnet is sweeping up all immigrants, regardless of criminal record. Between September 1st and October 15th of 2025, two-thirds of those arrested by ICE in Maryland had never been charged with a crime.

287(g) is designed to help ICE arrest people upon release from local jails. Most people released from local jails have been found not guilty, had charges dismissed, or served short sentences for minor offenses—yet under 287(g), they're treated as criminals and handed to ICE before their day in court. This bill would still allow coordination with ICE when they have a judicial warrant for a convicted criminal. Current ICE operations when done in cooperation with local police erode the trust between the community and local law enforcement. According to Mike Hilliard, retired major of the Baltimore Police Department, "When trust erodes, crimes go unreported, victims stay silent, and dangerous offenders remain on the streets."

All Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, are entitled to equal protection under the law and deserve to be treated with human dignity.

We respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.

Favorable SB0245 ClaireGarner.pdf
Uploaded by: Claire Garner
Position: FAV

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 **Claire Garner** and I am a **resident of New Market, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I am asking for 287G to be banned all throughout the state. The current sheriff of Frederick County has a history of racial profiling, which results in some members of our community living in fear, reluctant to report crimes, and being turned over to federal ICE officers for minor infractions.

Please unify the state of Maryland in banning 287G in all counties.

Thank you.

Claire Garner

New Market, MD

Testimony on Senate Bill_SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Claudia Galindo
Position: FAV

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 **Claudia Galindo**, and I am a **resident of Baltimore County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I write as a Latina scholar of education policy and a resident of Baltimore County since 2005. During my time in the County, I have observed the significant social, cultural, and economic vitality that the Latino immigrant community contributes to Maryland. Latino immigrants have a positive influence in Maryland in several interrelated and well-documented ways that span economic, social, cultural, and civic domains. Latino-owned businesses contribute to local economic growth, job creation, and neighborhood revitalization, particularly in urban (Baltimore City) and suburban (Baltimore County) areas that have experienced population decline or labor shortages. As Maryland, like much of the United States, faces an aging population, Latino communities help sustain population growth and workforce participation. Younger Latino populations contribute to school enrollment stability, future labor force development, and long-term economic resilience across the state. Latino families and students contribute to the educational landscape by enriching schools with linguistic diversity, transnational knowledge, and strong family networks. Latinos in Maryland contribute through community organizing, faith-based initiatives, parent advocacy, and local leadership. Their engagement strengthens civil society and supports responsive local institutions, particularly in education, health, and community development. Taken together, these contributions demonstrate that Latinos are not only an integral part of Maryland's present, but also central to its social and economic future.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

As a longtime resident of Baltimore County and a scholar who works closely with Latino families, educators, and community organizations, I have observed how immigration enforcement practices—both direct and indirect—have contributed to a persistent climate of fear within immigrant communities. Even in the absence of active enforcement actions, the perception of surveillance and the lack of clear institutional boundaries between local services and federal immigration authorities have led many families to limit their engagement with schools, health providers, and public agencies.

In Baltimore County, I have seen parents hesitate to attend school meetings, enroll children in programs, or access language and disability services out of concern that personal information could place their families at risk. Community members frequently report avoiding contact with law enforcement, even when they are victims or witnesses of crime, which undermines public safety for the broader community. These responses are not driven by unwillingness to comply with the law, but by uncertainty, inconsistent messaging, and prior experiences of harm or exclusion.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. These programs create barriers to safety, health, and educational stability—not only for immigrant families, but for the County as a whole. Instead, we need programs that prioritize transparency, trust-building, and clear separation between community services and immigration enforcement.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Claudia Galindo

SB245
Uploaded by: Clifford Fishman
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

Clifford S. Fishman
Silver Spring, MD 20906

TESTIMONY ON SB# 0245 – POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Clifford S. Fishman

I live in Leisure World in Silver Spring (the 19th legislative district). I have lived in Montgomery County since 1977, and am an active member (and past-president) of Tikvat Israel Congregation in Rockville. I am writing in support of **Senate Bill 0245, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition,** i.e., prohibiting local law enforcement agents to act as ICE agents. I urge passage on four general grounds: personal, professional, religious, and practical.

Personal: When I look at this generation's immigrants, I see my grandparents. Today's immigrants come from different countries and have different religions and languages and skin colors than my grandparents did, but they come here for the same reasons as my grandparents did: to escape discrimination or grinding poverty, or both. They had little education. Each took low-paying "scut work" while they learned English and learned what it means to be an American. My grandparents proudly became American citizens, and passed their love of our country to their children. Their children did better, and their grandchildren went to college and graduate school. You must now decide whether to help assure today's immigrants have a decent chance to realize those same hopes and dreams, or to make that difficult or impossible.

Professional: From 1969-1977, I was a prosecutor in New York City. I worked closely with city, state and federal law enforcement agencies to assure that their investigations complied with the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. As a law professor from 1977-2019, I taught, spoke and wrote about the Fourth Amendment. The Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures is a fundamental American value. One key measure of the professionalism of a law enforcement agency is whether it respects and conforms to the Fourth Amendment. **It is outrageous that ICE, a federal agency, routinely ignores and violates the Fourth Amendment. To allow local law enforcement agencies in Maryland to collaborate with ICE is even worse, because such collaboration will inevitably encourage local officials to ignore and violate the Amendment in their own cases as well.**

Religious: In the very heart of the Torah's holiness code, *Leviticus* 19:33-34 demands: "When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers

in the land of Egypt: I the Lord am your God." Nor is this command a one-off; the Torah insists on protecting and helping strangers *thirty-six times.*

Practical: Many immigrants in Montgomery County do jobs that have no prestige and low pay, but that make life better all of us. Many of them stock grocery shelves, wash dishes and bus tables, clean our schools and hospitals. Many work as home personal aides or companions for the elderly and disabled. Many help harvest our food or provide unskilled labor that helps build and repair our roads and other infrastructure. Without them, our lives would be less healthy, less productive, and less convenient, and our economy would suffer.

We must insist on due process, equal protection under the law, and humane and sympathetic treatment for all of our neighbors, regardless of their immigration status. And we must, to the extent legally permissible, prevent state officials from assisting ICE when it sweeps up dozens or hundreds of people merely because of their appearance or accent.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on Senate SB0245.

SB0245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Coen Doss
Position: FAV

Bill: SB0245

Position: Favorable

Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 19, 2026

Favorable Testimony for SB0245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

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

My name is Coen Doss, and I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, a member of Maryland's LGBTQIA+ community, and a resident of Legislative District 32. I am honored to submit testimony **strongly supporting SB0245**.

SB0245 is a timely, critical advancement in state-level protections for immigrants, and has the potential for even greater impact on LGBTQIA+ immigrants in particular. This legislation, which seeks to limit state and local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement under most circumstances, would provide a significant safeguard for some of Maryland's most vulnerable residents. For LGBTQIA+ immigrants, passage of this bill would mean enhanced safety, greater access to essential services, and a better chance to live with dignity and without fear.

LGBTQIA+ immigrants often face multiple layers of persecution and risk. Many flee countries where their sexual orientation or gender identity is criminalized or met with violence, and then once they arrive in the United States, they face a daunting immigration system and the constant threat of detention or deportation. This threat is amplified by interactions with local law enforcement, where minor offenses can escalate into immigration consequences. SB0245 will effectively disentangle basic public safety functions from immigration enforcement, ensuring that LGBTQIA+ immigrants can report crimes, seek help from police, and access community services without fear that this contact will lead to immigration detention. This is especially crucial for transgender immigrants, who are disproportionately targeted for violence and who require protection, not prosecution.

Furthermore, this bill will directly support public health and community well-being. Fear of deportation prevents many LGBTQIA+ immigrants from seeking essential medical care and mental health services. However, trust in institutions increases when local agencies cannot be enlisted as proxies for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Hospitals, clinics, and social service providers can become safe havens rather than potential traps. This allows for earlier intervention, better health outcomes, and a healthier community overall.

Additionally, SB0245 will foster economic stability. LGBTQIA+ immigrants who live without the pervasive fear of being separated from family, both biological and chosen, can pursue education, maintain employment, and contribute more fully to Maryland's economy and civic life. The constant stress of potential deportation undermines economic mobility and mental

health. This legislation provides a layer of security that enables individuals to build livelihoods and strengthen their communities.

All in all, SB0245 recognizes that the state's role is to protect all its residents, not to facilitate a federal enforcement regime that disproportionately terrorizes and tears apart marginalized families. For LGBTQIA+ immigrants, who face discrimination based on both their identity and their immigration status, this bill is a lifeline. It affirms that in Maryland, their safety and dignity are prioritized, allowing them to live openly and authentically as indispensable members of our shared society.

For all the reasons stated above, **I urge a favorable report of SB0245**.

Thank you for your consideration,

Coen Doss (he/they)

Laurel, MD

Legislative District 32

LWVMD_SB0245_01.22.2026_ Testimony in Support of P
Uploaded by: Cynthia Boddie-Willis
Position: FAV

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MARYLAND

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SB 0245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn, President

DATE: January 22, 2026

The League of Women Voters supports the 10th Amendment to the US Constitution which affirms that states have primary policing powers within their borders. Case law, moreover, asserts that the federal government cannot compel states to enact or enforce federal regulatory programs such as the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) 287g Program. Maryland, therefore, has the right to prohibit law enforcement agencies throughout the state from entering into or continuing 287g agreements with ICE. To do otherwise would be to funnel state and local resources into a federal agenda and away from a principal duty of these jurisdictions - to ensure public safety.

SB0245 categorically prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies and their employees throughout Maryland from entering into new immigrant enforcement agreements with the federal government and stipulates that the termination provision in all existing agreements must be exercised no later than July 1, 2026. These provisions are in line with positions long held by the League of Women Voters.

Therefore, **the League of Women Voters of Maryland**, a member of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table and representing nearly 2,000 citizens throughout Maryland in its own right, **strongly urges you to issue a favorable report.**

121 Cathedral Street, Suite 2B, Annapolis, MD 21401
410-269-0232 * info@lwvmd.org * www.lwvmd.org

Testimony-Support SB0245- Dan Blum-Centro Hispanic

Uploaded by: Daniel Blum

Position: FAV

Centro Hispano de Frederick
Un Nuevo Amanecer

Sen. William C Smith
Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 18, 2026

SB 0245
Immigration Enforcement Agreement Prohibition

I am the board president of Centro Hispano de Frederick, a nonprofit organization in Frederick, Maryland that helps Hispanic immigrants become successful, contributing members of our community. I am providing this written testimony to provide my strongest possible support for the passage of SB0245.

Well more than 30,000 people in Frederick County are of Hispanic origin. Our Hispanic neighbors play a vital role in our economic well-being, not only through owned, small businesses but also by providing a much-needed labor force that has been helping Frederick to be a vibrant, growing community. For us to continue this positive economic and cultural trajectory, we desperately need this population to feel safe and welcome.

The existence of the 287(g) program in Frederick has impeded growth of all types in our community and has made it more difficult for our Hispanic neighbors to be successful. I want to emphasize that the constant threat of potential arrest under 287(g) has had a chilling effect on *all* Hispanic residents, whether documented or not, because the program does not include guardrails to provide disincentives for racial and ethnic profiling. As a result, many of the people who are critical to continuing economic growth, whether documented or not, are afraid to participate fully in community life.

The 287(g) program is shrouded with poor transparency that undermines public safety. Numerous civil rights organizations, including the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, have sharply criticized the 287(g) agreements for leading to pre-textual traffic stops, racially motivated questioning, and unconstitutional searches and seizures primarily in communities of color.

Just as important, allowing our county sheriff deputies to act as immigration agents has confused the public about local police agencies' functions and priorities. This also sows distrust for anyone in uniform, which discourages members of minority communities from interacting with any police agency. This in turn negatively impacts efforts to use community policing to improve our county.

The fear in the Hispanic immigrant community because of our county´s participation in the 287(g) program has led to decreased participation in programs designed to help this population, reluctance to participate in public school programs and fear of leaving home to shop, eat and provide other important contributions to the economic well-being of our county. We simply cannot afford to exclude this critical population.

We urge the General Assembly to prohibit the execution of 287(g) agreements.

Sincerely

Daniel Blum
Board Chair, Centro Hispano de Frederick

support SB0245-DAG-20JAN26.pdf
Uploaded by: Daniel Golombek
Position: FAV

Dear Chair Smith and members of the JPR Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB0245. Maryland state and local law enforcement agents should not be used in federal immigration enforcement activities.

Immigration enforcement agencies are operating in an unlawful and careless manner, with their officers trying to meet quotas and receive bonuses for numbers of undocumented immigrants taken. I am sure you are aware that every day throughout Maryland fellow residents are being snatched off streets, disappeared out of state, and deported without due process.

I cannot fully enjoy what District 11 offers if I am afraid of speaking in a public space because I have an accent. We need to feel that our elected officials as well as the civil servants and police officers are there to respect, protect and serve us.

It is necessary for the state we cherish and call home to protect the human rights, community well-being, public health and public safety of its inhabitants. State resources need to focus on local and needed priorities not on civil immigration enforcement.

Thank you,
Daniel Golombek
Lutherville
District 11

SB245 - End 287g agreements.pdf
Uploaded by: Daryl Yoder
Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of **District 44. I am testifying in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

The End 287g Agreements Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in eight Maryland counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including: increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resulting "chilling effect" in Hispanic communities.[1] Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program"[2] Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who "posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%."[3]

The last Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite urban areas citing costs and the impact on community relations. DHS removed expiration dates and other guardrails that provided any attempted reforms and changes to the agreements under the Obama administration[4]. The current administration has continued to remove restrictions and oversight of ICE, leading inevitably to the horrifying murder of Renee Good in Minneapolis. While we've yet to see similar violence in Maryland, every additional encounter between Marylanders and ICE increases the chance of such an incident. Our local law enforcement should not be initiating these encounters.

Maryland's large immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing $8 billion in federal and $4 billion in state taxes, providing $2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power[5]. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.

Sincerely,
Daryl Yoder, 309 Glenmore Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228

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[1] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018

[2] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1

[3] The 287(g) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council

[4] License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); April, 26, 2022

[5] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council

[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB245 Sample Testimony DHA (2).pdf
Uploaded by: David Atkinson
Position: FAV

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 David Atkinson, and I am a resident of Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

ICE is a morally corrupt agency, and it operates based on White supremacist ideals. It attempts to legally and illegally violate people's human rights and attempts to do so without accountability. It needs to be abolished because it does more harm to American culture than good. It aims to bully non-white Americans and even White Americans who support civil rights for racial minorities. For the people purpose of this bill, I support the first step of prohibiting the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement; and requiring the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before July 1, 2026.

Partnering with ICE is bad for business, too. Just look at Minnesota.

The detention centers are also a mark of their willingness to violate human and civil rights. There have been reports of deaths and abuse in them.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB0245_DavidMFriedman_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: David Friedman
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026
David M. Friedman
Silver Spring, MD 20905

TESTIMONY ON SB0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

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

FROM: David M. Friedman

My name is David Friedman. I am a resident of Colesville/Cloverly in District 14. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0001, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.

I am an active member of Oseh Shalom, a Jewish Reconstructionist congregation located in Laurel, MD. In Jewish tradition, our sacred texts insist that we turn our own experiences of being outsiders in a foreign land, something my maternal grandparents experienced, into compassion for those experiencing the same today. In fact, care for "the stranger" is mentioned more times in the Torah than any other commandment. Thus, I am obligated to stand up for the safety of immigrants in my community.

Over the past year, I have been distressed to see how President Trump is not only focused on mass deportations but deploying Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other Federal agencies to terrorize immigrants and entire communities of color. With Congress tripling ICE's budget to more than $75 billion last summer, it has become clear that current brutal and lawless tactics will only increase significantly. We have seen the number of Maryland counties with 287g agreements with ICE grow from 3 to 8 just in the last year as some local sheriffs demand collaboration with the Trump administration. Maryland's immigrant families are an essential part of our communities, paying their taxes and contributing to local economies. Data shows that they commit crimes at lower rates than U.S.-born citizens. They are entitled to equal protection under the law and deserve to be treated with human dignity. While I realize that prohibiting local and state 287(g) agreements will not stop ICE agents themselves, I believe SB245 is essential to prevent collaboration in Maryland with the brutality we are seeing from the Trump administration.

The current moment calls on all of us to be brave and join Delaware and a half-dozen other states that have passed a clean and comprehensive ban on all 287(g) agreements as part of our ongoing effort to defend due process, public safety, and justice for all Maryland residents. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB245.**

Testimony in favor of SB245.docx - Google Docs.pdf
Uploaded by: David Tupper
Position: FAV

My name Is David Tupper and I offer **testimony in support of SB0245, with a full ban on 287(g) agreements statewide.**

As a Garrett County resident, I am disappointed that Sheriff Bryson Meyers entered into a 287(g) agreement in 2024. While I appreciate the listening sessions with Sheriff Meyers where he explained his thoughtful consideration of adopting the 287(g) program as well as his assurances to refrain from engaging in racial profiling, he is an elected official. This leaves the county vulnerable to a future county sheriff who may take a more aggressive stance.

There apparently have not been any immigrant referrals to this point. However, I am aware that there are residents in the community who feel very unsafe and fearful. I do not feel this is good for our community.

Garrett County is a rural part of the state, with the lowest percentage of minorities and the third lowest general population in Maryland. The few local people of color or those with accents already encounter overt racism from locals, and often feel nervous, unwelcome and unsafe (as reported in a 2023 Commissioner's Report Community Survey). Those who look or sound different (no matter what their legal status) have become potential targets, and understandably hesitant to draw further attention to themselves. **When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses, even when they are victims. That makes everyone less safe.**

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. I do not want that to happen in Garrett County.

I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB0245 - Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

Sincerely,

David Tupper
6 West Pennington Street, Oakland MD 21550
dcraigtupper@gmail.com

2026 SB245 Favorable Arnolia UMC.pdf
Uploaded by: David Yost
Position: FAV

ARNOLIA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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,

Arnolia UMC offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

We are a United Methodist congregation with approximately 100 active members in Parkville, MD whose faith moves us to advocate for and with immigrant families. We work with immigrant families in our congregation and community to embody a way of being in the world rooted in the inherent value, worth, and dignity of all people.

At its core, **SB 245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

We understand that family separation is one of the largest predictors of death by suicide within immigrant communities and we bear witness to the pain and fear in our communities because of the threats of separation, violence, and racial profiling at the hands of ICE.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

In Baltimore county, the fear of these enforcement practices hinder the ability for some of our members to feel safe in their own community and have frequently avoided connecting together in worship and study. And within the community, it's been harder to connect to immigrant families to provide them the care and support they deserve.

For these reasons, **Arnolia UMC** urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Testimony - Support SB245 Dawn Sacks.docx.pdf
Uploaded by: Dawn Sacks
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 245 – IN SUPPORT

SB245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Dawn Sacks and I am a resident of Harford County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources – tax dollars and personnel - away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

The Harford County Sheriff's Office has a 287g contract. This means County residents don't generally see the type of ICE violence so visible on the streets of other jurisdictions. But hiding the problem is no solution. It only encourages local law enforcement to mimic the unconstitutional tactics displayed by ICE everywhere – racial profiling, unlawful stops, illegal detentions, and retaliation against those who stand up for their rights.

Let us not be, as Dr. Martin Luther King explained, the "moderate who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice". It's time for Maryland to stand up for what's right and say no to immigration enforcement agreements.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dawn Sacks
1603 Forest Valley Ct.
Forest Hill, MD 21050
sacksdawn@comcast.net

SB245
Uploaded by: Debbie Shulman
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill-

Favorable

SB 245-Publiic 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 Diistrict 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 thought 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 thwart 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 wee 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,

Deborah Shulman
4137 Danube Court
Olney, MD 20832
240-461-0699
Debbie.j.shulman@gmail.com

Testimony 287gF.pdf
Uploaded by: Debbie Shulman
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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 a resident of Olney, Maryland, in District 14. I am writing in strong support of SB 245 – Public Safety: Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I care deeply about this issue because my daughter-in-law is a naturalized citizen. I fear for her safety and that of her family, even though they are law-abiding, naturalized citizens. ICE's actions are often driven by quotas, bonuses, and performance targets rather than true public safety concerns.

I also volunteer daily with a mutual aid group that helps the immigrant community. These are hardworking people who have homes, jobs, families, and contribute taxes. They are no different than the rest of us.

My daughter-in-law is a teacher, and my son is a principal. Many of their students are immigrants, and I see daily the positive impact these families have on our communities.

I would warn people against visiting counties with 287(g) agreements, and I am certain many others would do the same. Taxpayer dollars should not fund policies that create fear and division.

No one should have to fear ICE or agencies assisting ICE. Too often, ICE focuses on numerical targets rather than actual criminal threats. Research consistently shows that immigrants are far less likely to commit violent crimes than the general population, yet misinformation is repeated from the top of our government.

287(g) agreements do not make our communities safer. In fact, they often make them less safe. Victims and witnesses are afraid to report crimes, and local law enforcement loses the trust of the communities they serve. When law enforcement notifies ICE about detained immigrants,

individuals can be denied due process and presumed guilty before ever having their day in court. This is unjust and illegal.

People trying to gain citizenship are forced to make impossible choices: attend routine immigration appointments and risk detention, or stay home and risk jeopardizing their status. Families lose breadwinners, children live in fear, and entire communities are traumatized. Counties should not be making these harms worse.

Why 287(g) Agreements Are Harmful for Maryland

Research shows that 287(g) agreements do not reduce crime. Instead, they create fear of law enforcement and discourage cooperation with police. Witnesses and victims remain silent, allowing criminals to remain free and making communities less safe for everyone.

Maryland is also facing financial shortages due to federal cuts. Our state tax dollars are being stretched thin, and they should not go to law enforcement agencies that inflict harm on immigrant communities. Continuing 287(g) agreements is not a responsible or effective use of taxpayer dollars.

Conclusion

Maryland should follow other states that have ended 287(g) agreements. As the Free State, we have a moral and fiscal obligation to protect the rights and dignity of all residents. Our state tax dollars are being stretched thin, and they should not fund law enforcement agencies that inflict harm on immigrant communities. Continuing 287(g) agreements undermines safety, justice, human dignity, and responsible fiscal policy. My county has worked hard to uphold immigrant rights; Maryland should do the same.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable vote for SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Deborah Shulman

4137 Danube Court

Olney, MD 20832

240-461-0699

Debbie.j.shulman@gmail.com

SB245 Favorable 2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Debi Jasen
Position: FAV

Judicial Proceedings
Senate Bill 245
Favorable

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 245 a FAVORABLE vote.

The 287(g) program has been used to deny people their rights, and to perpetuate racist police stops. It has also resulted in numerous lawsuits, and in increased costs to states. 287(g) agreements have made witnesses to crimes less likely to come forward, negatively impacting successful prosecutions. State and local law enforcement have no business doing the work of a federal agency. There are ways to enforce the law and to ensure that people suspected of crimes are put on trial, without resorting to problematic 287(g) agreements.

I urge a favorable report for Senate Bill 245. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD

SB245-Support.pdf
Uploaded by: Deborah Lattimer
Position: FAV

Gmail **Deborah Lattimer <dalattimer@gmail.com>**

SB245: Favorable

1 message

Deborah Lattimer <dalattimer@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 20, 2026 at 8:38 AM
To: Deborah Lattimer <dalattimer@gmail.com>

Good day. My name is Deborah Lattimer and I live in Columbia MD., District 13. I am sending this testimony in support of the bill to ban 287 agreements in Maryland, **SB245.**

I believe that 287g agreements, in addition to leading to illegal racial profiling and civil rights abuses, divert important resources from traditional and effective local law enforcement functions.

For this reason, I ask that you to vote IN FAVOR of SB245.

SB245 Testimony for 1-22-2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Debra Browne
Position: FAV

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 Debra Browne, and I am a resident of Leisure World in Silver Spring, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I care about this issue because our communities are being torn apart by federal agents swooping in, carrying off, detaining, hurting, and even killing our citizens. Although killing has not yet occurred in Maryland, if things continue the way they are, it is inevitable. In cases of criminal immigrants, there are lawful ways to pursue and detain them, as there are for criminal citizens, including search warrants and proper procedures.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I protest in front of Leisure World with others of like mind, against ICE, against the current administration's policies, and for compassion. Our crowds range from 300 (on short notice) to over 1,800. Drivers pass by and honk and wave in support. We on occasion see a raised middle finger but that is far, far overshadowed by the overall support from the community.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Racial profiling and discrimination are immoral and should be relics of the past. Wrongful detention is heinous. We are headed to a police state where people must constantly carry their papers and are subject to being snatched off the street if they don't have them, or if they have the wrong ones. In addition, if our immigrant community is terrified of approaching law enforcement when they have been wronged, a vital trust has been compromised. As it is, students are staying home from school and people are not going to stores, even grocery stores, for fear of being abducted and detained. This is not good for our residents or our economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Debra Browne, 3500 Forest Edge Dr., #1G, Silver Spring, MD 20906

SB 245 Deedee Jacobsohn Fav.pdf
Uploaded by: Deedee Jacobsohn
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

Deedee Jacobsohn
Rockville, MD 20852

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: Deedee Jacobsohn

My name is Deedee Jacobsohn. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 245 - Prohibition of Immigration Enforcement Agreements.

I am a member of B'nai Israel Congregation in Rockville and a CASA ally. The Jewish tradition has numerous exhortations about how to treat the sojourner among us: to protect them, to support them, and to treat them with love and compassion because we were once strangers in Egypt. It is one of the most repeated obligations in our Torah. So I am writing from a place of dismay, disgust, and distress. Truly, I cannot find appropriate words to express how I feel about the actions ICE is taking *with the support of our own law enforcement agents* in Maryland.

Right here in Maryland, high school students are living without a parent because ICE has captured a father or mother now being detained in another state. Families are left without their primary provider. Communities are being torn apart, and people are afraid to go about their lives because of the terrifying images from Minnesota. ICE is not arresting or detaining violent or heinous criminals based on warrants. They are filling their quota by kidnapping people who speak another language or have a darker skin color. The "Kavanaugh stop" has empowered ICE to racially profile everyone. No one is released after a "simple conversation" about immigration status; ICE is detaining citizens and immigrants, and denying access to legal representation.

Maryland law enforcement agents should not be supporting this unconstitutional behavior. We need to keep our communities safe. Cooperation with ICE will destroy faith in local law enforcement with devastating consequences for public safety.

I urge you to end existing 287(g) agreements and prohibit local and state law enforcement from making these agreements. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 245.**

written testimony for SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Diane Nemett
Position: FAV

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 Diane Nemett, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, MD. **I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and in all Maryland citizens and undermine public safety for everyone. We have all seen the draconian, unaccountable tactics being used for unlawful detention, arrest, deportation and killing not only of immigrants but of US citizens. This is not what our country, our state, our county is about, It is not a partisan issue. It is a broad human and economic issue. It is critical that our state be strong and that our representatives at the county and state levels use your power to not be complicit with these illegal, often inhumane, actions. Rather than making us safer, ICE is fomenting chaos and fear.

Recently, the foreign-born spouse of an American citizen when attending the final step for approval of permanent residency status, and after receiving approval of that status, ICE came into that interview, shackled and took him away from his family and lawyer,

Being complicit in these actions, and worse, undermines the trust in our own law enforcement officers. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

We cannot allow our sheriffs, police and National Guard to be used as agents of ICE.This is not only morally reprehensible but will cost our county/state and county/state taxpayers money and resources which should be used for the purposes of public safety for which they are designed. Programs like 287(g) divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to be strong and issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

FAVORABLE SB0245_Dorian_BaldwinBott.pdf
Uploaded by: Dorian Baldwin-Bott
Position: FAV

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 Dorian Baldwin-Bott and I am a longtime resident of the town of Berwyn Heights in Prince George's County, **Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I currently work down the street from Eleanor Roosevelt High in Greenbelt, Maryland where I started attending school twelve years ago this fall. There I took an amazing US History class where again and again I learned the importance of immigrant communities to the progress and growth of our great nation. The importance of respecting our civil liberties was also stressed-- the strength and safety of our communities relies upon it. I support the removal of ICE agents not as a radical new agenda, but as a continuation of a history of liberties fought for from British colonizers, as well as fascistic leaders abroad.

Additionally, I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

I have seen through friends and friends of friends the fear and uncertainty that the presence of ICE has represented, and after the horrifying and serious events nationwide I think Maryland as a state has an important duty to its people and its legacy to stand in opposition to the harm that is occurring. We can be an example in standing up for one another in this time.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Blank.pdf
Uploaded by: Eileen McGrath
Position: FAV

Subject: FAVORABLE: SBO245
Public Safety- Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldsteicher, and Members,

My name is Eileen McGrath and I am a resident of Fredrick County, Maryland.
I am writing in support of SB 245 because it is clear that our 287G agreement is **Not** making our community safer- it is in fact- undermining public safety for all of us. The **Latino community, which is the largest minority group in Frederick**, lives in daily fear of being targeted by local police.Parents are afraid to send their children to school, afraid to go to work and now many of them are afraid to even respond to a knock on the door. **287G and its cooperation with ICE has completely eroded their trust in law enforcement.** As a former director of a Crime Victim Assistance Program, I am keenly aware that if you loose the trust of your residents you will not be successful in fighting crime despite what Sheriff Jenkins tells us. He equates large numbers of arrests with success. Unfortunately, this past June at a public forum when asked for details about the nature of the stops that lead to arrests, the Sheriff was unable to give us the answer. That lack of transparency has eroded trust well beyond the Latino community in Frederick County.
It's time for the State of MD to send a message that Marylanders will not be complicit in participating in agreements that provide assistance to ICE as it is currently operating.

SB245-Zeller-Favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Eileen Zeller
Position: FAV

Senate Bill 245:
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings
January 22, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eileen Zeller. I live in Clarksville, MD (District 9). I am writing in support of SB 245.

I feel viscerally about this issue. Although my parents and grandparents survived the horrors of Nazi Germany, the majority of our family—dozens of their brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins—were murdered in concentration camps. Before that, they were terrorized in the streets, in their workplaces, in their schools, and in their homes by Brown Shirts and the Gestapo. *(Please forgive the fact that I used this same paragraph in my testimony for SB1, which is also being heard by JPR today.)*

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement partnerships like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and make everyone less safe. When people are afraid of law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs such as 287(g) have been linked to racial profiling and wrongful detention, and they divert local resources away from community safety into federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB245.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen Zeller
Clarksville (District 9)

287g.pdf
Uploaded by: Elizabeth Pollack
Position: FAV

RE: SB 245 Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition

Favorable

Elizabeth Pollack

Testimony on SB #245, Prohibition of Immigration E

Uploaded by: Emily Blank

Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

Emily C. Blank
Brentwood, MD 20722

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: Emily C. Blank

My name is Emily C. Blank. I am a resident of District 47a. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB# 245, Prohibition of Immigration Enforcement Agreements.

I am a retired economics professor (38 years at Howard University). I am also a member of congregation Oseh Shalom in Laurel, and a core leader of the Maryland chapter of Bend the Arc, Jewish Action. The Hebrew Scriptures tell us many times not to oppress the stranger, and it would be hard to argue that ICE and CBP employees are not currently oppressing immigrants. A number of immigrants died in custody last year; some have died after being deported through lack of access to medicine or political violence.

From the point of view of our national self-interest immigrants make positive contributions to our country's economy. In my considered opinion, if ICE continues to deport immigrants working in the United States, we will have a shortage of not only farm laborers, construction workers and workers in the restaurant industry, but technology employees, educators, child care providers, and a multitude of small business owners, as well as well as nurses, nurses' aides and other healthcare workers. From a completely self-interested point of view, I am worried about finding affordable care if I become sick or disabled due to age, and that anxiety is compounded as deportations exacerbate the shrinking number of healthcare workers.

I realize that the Maryland legislature cannot stop ICE or the CBP, but I have strong objections to local and state police assisting them. Indeed, I would like to see Maryland police arrest ICE officers who break the law.

In short, I request that the legislature refrain from entering into 287g agreements with ICE.

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

SB 001.pdf
Uploaded by: Emily Peterson
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 001– Enforcement Officers-Prohibition on Face Coverings

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

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

My name is Emily Peterson, and I am a resident in Baltimore**,** Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 001 – Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings.**

I am a graduate student studying history at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. I recently worked on a project highlighting one of Baltimore's foremost civil rights leaders, Juanita Jackson Mitchell. Mitchell was the first Black woman to become a practicing lawyer in Maryland and worked on a number of important civil rights cases along with the likes of Thurgood Marshall. One of these cases was to protect the rights of Marylanders from being racially profiled by police officers who went door-to-door without warrants. Mitchell was an ardent opponent of police brutality and believed that individuals should be protected from being targeted on account of their race or neighborhood. When I think of what ICE is doing today, I think Maryland's foremost civil rights leaders would be appalled with the lack of accountability among ICE officers today.

I support **SB 001** because immigration enforcement officers should be accountable and identifiable in the instance that they instigate violence (which has already happened in places like Glen Burnie). We don't allow police officers to wear face coverings, so there should not be a different standard for ICE officers who receive even less training on de-escalation tactics than police officers. Face coverings offer an anonymity that may incentivize ICE officers to act irresponsibly or violently without having to face repercussions.

As a resident of Baltimore, I deeply feel that we must protect all of our citizens from harm, including those who are undocumented. Prohibiting face coverings is just one piece to achieve this.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 001**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

EdTrust Testimony - Favorable - SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Emily Young
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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,

EdTrust, a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy & advocacy organization working to dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in the American education system offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

EdTrust is committed to ensuring that all students – no matter their race, socioeconomic status, or real or perceived immigration status – have access to a high-quality education. For over 30 years EdTrust has worked to advance policies and practices that further this goal at the federal and state levels. We write today to demonstrate the ways in which 287(g) agreements have a devastating impact on students' academic achievement and long-term outcomes.

In addition to the racial profiling and over-policing of communities of color that 287(g) agreements perpetuate, **studies indicate that heighted immigration enforcement drastically increases student absenteeism**. In California, up to and following immigration raids, schools serving large numbers of immigrant students saw a 22-35% increase in absences. Importantly, **these increases occurred even though the immigration enforcement actions were not at schools** and persisted for several weeks afterwards. Similar trends have been observed in Illinois and Washington. **The persistence of 287(g) agreements in Maryland threatens to undermine years of progress on student attendance.** Chronic absenteeism rates, in which students miss 10% or more of school, have been steadily decreasing for the past two years. However, Black, Latino, and Multilingual students continue to have some of the highest rates of chronic absenteeism in the state. The continuation of 287(g) agreements will only undermine efforts to address these trends and encourage students to return to school. Furthermore, as chronic absenteeism is linked to higher drop-out rates, as well as decreased academic outcomes for ALL students, 287(g) agreements also threaten to undermine the academic achievement of Maryland's students - something the state has recently redoubled its dedication to through passage of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

In addition to the academic impacts on students, **287(g) agreements harm students' mental health and strain the relationship between schools and parents.** Families are an integral part of students' success and the threat of deportation can stop many immigrant families from attending parent-teacher conferences or school events. This decreased engagement

1501 K Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202.293.1217 | Fax: 202.293.2605 | edtrust.org

has negative impacts on students' learning and breaks the link between schools and communities. These policies also create a climate of fear in schools – where students struggle to pay attention while worrying about their families' or friends' safety. These constant stressors lead to decreases in students' mental health, something that is directly linked to their academic success and long-term achievement.

When Black and Brown students can't attend school without fear, our entire state suffers**.** Our students are our future, and in order for Maryland to prosper in the years to come, we must be committed to their success. Families should not be forced to choose between their safety and their children's education. Students' futures should not be hindered by frequent absences and constant mental stress. **By protecting our students and families through banning 287(g), Maryland will reaffirm that every young person is a child with potential—not a threat to be eliminated.**

For these reasons**,** EdTrust urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245.**

Sincerely,
Augustus Mays
Vice President, Partnerships and Engagement
EdTrust

Amica Center Favorable Testimony SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Eric Lopez
Position: FAV

Amica
Center for Immigrant Rights
Formerly known as CAIR Coalition

1025 Connecticut Avenue NW,
Suite 701 | Washington, DC 20036

www.amicacenter.org

Testimony on SB 245 - Favorable

SB 245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 20, 2026

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

The Amica Center for Immigrant Rights (Amica Center) offers a **favorable** testimony in support of **SB 245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

The Amica Center is a non-profit organization that provides pro bono legal defense services to community members detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Maryland and the DMV area. Our organization has specialized in detained removal defense for the past 25 years and are leaders in creating systemic changes in the immigration system for the benefit of vulnerable non-citizen community members.

Our organization has extensive experience defending community members who have been detained by ICE due to local 287g programs in Maryland. This pipeline to ICE detention and deportation is harmful to immigrant and mixed status families, to our communities and to our State. Civil detention is becoming almost indistinguishable from criminal detention, where people are subjected to cruel conditions and trauma. But one critical distinction is that unlike the criminal system, there is no guarantee of appointed legal defense for those who cannot afford private counsel in the immigration system. Most people are forced to navigate this system alone without legal representation against highly trained and hostile government attorneys and adversarial adjudicators.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values — fairness, dignity, and justice for all. Senate Bill 245 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).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting

Amica
Center for Immigrant Rights
Formerly known as CAIR Coalition

1025 Connecticut Avenue NW,
Suite 701 | Washington, DC 20036

www.amicacenter.org

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. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

ICE is already aggressively targeting Maryland communities as it is. Our local law enforcement should not support ICE in their goal of reaching their detention quotas. ICE is using their extensive resources to detain anyone they suspect is without lawful status, regardless if the person is one of their targets – meaning that they have prior immigration or criminal history. What does this look like in practice? It looks like drivers being pulled over and questioned about their immigration status based on racial profiling and biases. It looks like ICE breaking car windows and violently removing drivers from their cars when drivers invoke their right to remain silent, saying that their own policy allows for this practice.[1]

Once ICE takes community members to the Baltimore ICE Field Office, they subject them to cruel and inhumane conditions. People are held there for many days and forced to sleep on concrete floors in overcrowded rooms in the same clothes they were arrested with. ICE provides no access to showers and only one public toilet per room with 20 people. There is no consistent access to food and people have been denied medications for diabetes and HIV. We have heard of at least one instance where ICE deprived a person of food as punishment. These practices are in violation of ICE's own rules and detention standards.[2]
The Amica Center urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 245.

Sincerely,

Eric Lopez
Deputy Program Director
Amica Center for Immigrant Rights
10 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

[1] https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/maryland-counties-face-possible-federal-litigation-as-ice-ramps-up-enforcement-under-trump
[2] https://www.thenation.com/article/society/ice-detention-courthouse-holding-room/?nc=1

PMD. Sb 245. FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Erica Puentes
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792
ProgressiveMaryland.org
Info@progressivemaryland.org

Bill Title: SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Position: SUPPORT (FAV)
To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Erica Puentes, Legislative Coordinator on behalf of Progressive Maryland
Date: January 20, 2026

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

Progressive Maryland strongly supports **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.** Progressive Maryland is a member based organization led by and focused on working class, Black, and brown communities. Our grassroots advocacy focuses include racial justice and economic justice with the aim of building a more just and equitable Maryland. We have over 125,000 members and supporters across the state, with significant bases in Baltimore City, Prince George's, Montgomery, Frederick, Harford counties, and the Eastern Shore.

At its core, **SB 245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

The Progressive Maryland membership is deeply concerned with the erosion of democracy under Trump's administration and the rise of state funded attacks on our Black, brown, and immigrant communities. ICE's activity is state sanctioned terror. Maryland must stand up to this anti-democratic and violent behavior and fight back against the harms our communities are facing. We hope that ending 287(g) contracts is a step towards the abolition of ICE, a rogue secret police agency that fails to improve public safety and instead inflicts deep harm on our communities and our nation.

For these reasons, **Progressive Maryland** urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

SAC_FAV_SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Erica Puentes
Position: FAV

Solidaridad Action Committee

Of the Gamma Alpha Chapter of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporada

Solidaridad Action Committee

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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,

The Solidaridad Action Committee (SAC) of the Gamma Alpha Chapter (GA) of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporada (ΣIA) offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.** SAC is composed of sisters of ΣIA, a Latina based but not Latina exclusive sorority with a large membership base throughout the state of Maryland. Our committee and organization represents many women including undergraduates currently studying at the University Maryland, College Park, Towson University, Johns Hopkins University, McDaniel College and alumni who work in various professions and industries across the state.

At its core, **SB 245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

ICE activity in Maryland has had a deep impact on our sorority sisters and our families and community. Our sorority sisters who are teachers work with scared and traumatized students, children who feel anxiety over family separation. Our family members, non-citizen and citizen alike, have changed their routines and live a more limited and restricted daily life for fear of being racially profiled and aggressed by law enforcement. And many of our friends and family members have experienced the injustice of detention, deportation, and family separation. We hope that ending 287(g) contracts is a step toward not only limiting ICE activity but abolishing ICE altogether. Our sorority sisters, our communities, deserve dignity and respect. ICE activity and state sanctioned violence is inhumane. No human being should be subject to this terror.

For these reasons, the Solidaridad Action Committee of the GA chapter of ΣIA urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Testimony in support of SB245 E Hodge-Willimas.pdf
Uploaded by: Erin Hodge-Williams
Position: FAV

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 Erin Hodge-Williams**. I am a resident of Baltimore City and a homeowner in Garrett County, Maryland.** I am writing in support of SB245 – *Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition*.

I am a **licensed clinical social worker with over 35 years of experience working in community settings and as a psychotherapist in private practice.** My professional expertise includes depression, anxiety, trauma-including vicarious trauma, and community-level trauma.

Clinical research and long-standing evidence in the fields of psychology, social work, and public health demonstrate that exposure to aggressive or violent law enforcement activity—whether directly, as a bystander, or through repeated media exposure—can result in trauma-related symptoms including anxiety, hypervigilance, sleep disturbance, and impaired functioning. These effects are not limited to the individuals directly involved but extend to families, children, and entire communities.

A key public safety concern associated with 287(g) agreements is the erosion of trust in local law enforcement. Decades of policing and public health research show that community trust is essential to effective public safety. When local law enforcement is perceived as an extension of federal immigration enforcement, community members—particularly in immigrant and mixed-status communities—are less likely to report crimes, seek assistance, or cooperate as witnesses, even when they are victims. This undermines crime prevention, investigation, and overall community safety.

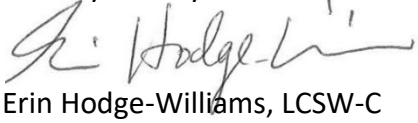
My prior work in Baltimore communities reflects these findings. Communities where law enforcement operated in lawful, transparent, and community-centered ways experienced higher cooperation and lower levels of violence. In contrast, aggressive or unaccountable policing practices-especially when perpetuated by local law enforcement officials that are familiar to the residents- were associated with increased fear, disengagement, and a sense of futility among residents, including children—conditions that are known risk factors for long-term trauma and community instability.

The role of social media further amplifies these harms. Law enforcement encounters are frequently recorded and widely disseminated, increasing exposure to potentially traumatic events and, in smaller communities, further eroding trust when local officers are identifiable.

From both a clinical and public safety perspective, 287(g) agreements contribute to community-wide fear, psychological harm, and reduced cooperation with law enforcement, while diverting local resources away from core public safety functions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245 – *Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition*.

Thank you for your consideration.



Erin Hodge-Williams, LCSW-C
5905 Charlesmead Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

SB0245_Immigration Enforcement Agreements_QV_FAV.p
Uploaded by: Erinn Camp Mansour
Position: FAV

Quaker Voice of Maryland

Bill Title: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition - SB0245
Position: SUPPORT (FAV)
To: Judicial Proceedings Committee
Date: January 22, 2026

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

My name is Erinn Camp Mansour with Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM), a faith-based advocacy group that advocates for policies that are just, compassionate, equitable, and respectful of the inherent worth of every person and the Earth upon which we live. Quakers across Maryland shared with us their increasing concern for stronger immigrant protections. QVM sees SB0245 as an urgent priority in response to the ongoing and expanding use of 287(g) agreements by some jurisdictions to deputize local police in order to implement federal mass deportation policies.

The Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is operating as a paramilitary force, using draconian operational practices that threaten the lives, dignity and human rights of the people they claim to protect. Law enforcement agreements that use local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration law, often without adequate training or oversight, are discriminatory and a misuse of community resources. Such agreements erode public trust and can result in civil rights violations, including documented cases of racial profiling and targeting of individuals based on appearance rather than suspected criminal activity. This bill terminates and prevents such 287(g) agreements that allow local police to act as ICE agents.

Underreporting crime is more common in communities where there are local collaborations with ICE for higher immigration enforcement. Communities are safer and stronger when neighbors and local law enforcement rely on and trust each other. Peace is lost and communities are broken when these relationships fail.

The Quaker experience of the Divine affects what we do in our personal lives, what we believe and how we work for changes in the wider world. “Testimonies” are what Quakers call the ways we have found to live and act based on our beliefs. We embrace the knowledge that all persons are children of the Divine and brothers and sisters of one another. **Our spiritual and social testimonies, including those of peace, community, integrity, and equality, lead us to submit this testimony for SB0245.**

Please protect the lives, dignity and human rights of all people, and the integrity and effectiveness of local law enforcement, by issuing a **FAVORABLE** report for SB0245. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Erinn Camp Mansour
Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland
Organization email: quakervoicemd@gmail.com

SB245
Uploaded by: Ethan Wechtaluk
Position: FAV

ETHAN
for Maryland

Written Testimony – Favorable

SB0245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

My name is Ethan Wechtaluk. I am a Maryland resident, a father, and a candidate for Congress in Maryland's 6th District. I submit this testimony in strong support of SB0245, informed by a principled belief that effective governance and public safety are best served when their roles and responsibilities are clearly defined.

SB0245 confronts a structural failure in immigration enforcement that distorts the mission of law enforcement in Maryland by collapsing distinct federal and local responsibilities into an unworkable hybrid. In doing so, these agreements divert already scare local resources and undermine the foundational conditions of public safety that are paramount to effective law enforcement at the local level: trust, cooperation, and institutional legitimacy.

When residents reasonably believe that contact with local law enforcement may expose them to federal immigration enforcement, the consequences are not theoretical but predictable and well-documented. Victims are less likely to report crimes, witnesses disengage from investigations, and vulnerable populations retreat from the very institutions meant to protect them. The result is not crime prevention, but a breakdown in trust that allows violence, exploitation, and repeat offenses to go unchecked. Far from enhancing public safety, this dynamic actively undermines it.

Local law enforcement is most effective when its role is highly accountable and clearly defined, with a narrow focus that is aligned with its core competencies. Programs such as 287(g) agreements force officers to operate outside that scope, entangling routine policing with complex federal immigration determinations for which local departments are neither

designed nor resourced. SB0245 restores clarity of purpose by reestablishing a clean and necessary division of responsibility: immigration enforcement is a federal function, and Maryland's state and local law enforcement agencies exist to protect public safety for all residents.

The bill also reflects a broader principle of sound governance. Maryland's immigrant communities are deeply integrated into the state's social and economic fabric as workers, parents, caregivers, entrepreneurs, and taxpayers. Policies that treat entire populations as inherently suspect do not produce security, they generate fear-driven behaviors. SB0245 rejects that model and affirms an evidence-based approach to public safety.

Maryland has both the authority and the obligation to ensure that its institutions operate in ways that are rational, humane, and aligned with their intended purpose. SB0245 advances that responsibility by strengthening public safety, preserving institutional integrity, and reinforcing trust between communities and the systems meant to serve them. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable vote.

Ethan Wechtaluk
P.O. Box 68
Clarksburg, MD 20871

SB0245_FrancaBrilliant_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Franca Brilliant
Position: FAV

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.

Testimony SB245 January 22 2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Fronda Cohen Ottenheimer
Position: FAV

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 Fronda Cohen Ottenheimer and I am a resident in Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I believe every person living in the United States deserves the same rights, protections and security. I believe that the U.S. Constitution and the laws of Maryland should protect all the freedoms our country was built on.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I have walked through Highlandtown in east Baltimore on a beautiful, sunny Saturday, where the streets were deserted. Shops were empty. Posted signs warn of ICE raids, with information on individual rights should anyone be approached. There was fear and apprehension on the faces of the few people I passed.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Testimony of MD SB245 - Jan. 2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Gail Lipsitz
Position: FAV

January 20, 2026

Gail Lipsitz

Pikesville, MD

TESTIMONY ON SB245 – POSITION:(FAVORABLE/FAVORABLE)

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

TO: Chair William Smith, Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the JPR Committee

FROM: Gail Lipsitz

My name is Gail Lipsitz. I am a resident of District 11B. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I am a member of Chizuk Amuno Congregation's Social Justice and Advocacy Committee. I strongly support SBO245 to protect our immigrant neighbors and communities. 287g agreements promote racial profiling and the unlawful abduction of people without due process. These agreements have resulted in the intensified use of brutal tactics, forceful separation of families, hasty deportations, and spreading fear. This violence and injustice violate my Jewish values. The Torah repeatedly mandates empathy for the immigrant or refugee who seeks help and protection among us, pointing to the Jewish people's history of persecution: "You shall not wrong nor oppress the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34). Rabbi Moses Ben Nachman in the 12th century interpreted this command: "I see the tears of the oppressed who have no comforter, while the hand of the oppressors has power."

Last August (2025) I participated in a peaceful gathering of the Jewish community, CASA, and other allies at Hopkins Plaza to protest the actions of ICE in Baltimore. This was just a few days after Kilmar Abrego Garcia was returned from illegal imprisonment in Venezuela and faced the threat of another deportation. Mr. Abrego Garcia was present and spoke briefly, encouraging us to stand up for the constitutional rights of every person living in the USA, whatever their immigration or citizenship status. I was very moved by seeing this courageous man who has been so mistreated. As I stood in front of the tall, impersonal George H. Fallon Federal Building, looking up at rows of blank windows, and knowing that it held many people unjustly detained and denied their basic rights -- the realization that this persecution is happening right here in my own community hit me hard.

In closing, I respectfully urge you to pass SB0245 with no carve-outs. Please seek justice, promote compassion, and protect our immigrant communities in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration.

GCNAACP testimony in favor of SB0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Garrett County NAACP Branch 7139
Position: FAV

The Garrett County Branch of NAACP strongly supports SB0245 with a full ban on 287g agreements statewide.

On behalf of the Garrett County Branch of the NAACP we submit this testimony in favor of **SB0245 - Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.**

The NAACP has long stood at the forefront of the fight for civil rights, racial justice, and equal protection under the law. As the oldest and boldest civil rights organization in the nation, we remain committed to ensuring the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all individuals, while working tirelessly to eliminate race-based discrimination. The Garrett County NAACP believes that an injustice to one is an injustice to all. The 287(g) program violates this principle by enabling racial profiling, discrimination, and fear within immigrant communities, eroding trust between law enforcement and the people they are sworn to protect.

The Garrett County NAACP was the last and most recent branch of the NAACP to be formed in Maryland with a mission to foster a welcoming, inclusive, and vibrant community. Our rural county can be a difficult place for newcomers. Garrett County needs professionals of all backgrounds and colors to support our local medical and specialty needs, but unfortunately people of color have not always felt safe or welcome. We fear that local law enforcement collaborating with ICE could exacerbate these concerns.

The 287g program, which Sheriff Bryson Meyers adopted in 2024, violates constitutional right for due process and decreases our local autonomy. While we appreciate the listening sessions with Sheriff Meyers where he explained his thoughtful consideration of adopting the 287g program as well as his assurances to refrain from engaging in racial profiling, he is an elected official. This leaves the county subject to subjective interpretations of a future county sheriff who may have a more aggressive stance. Though there apparently have not been any immigrant referrals to this point, we are aware that there are residents in the community who feel very unsafe and fearful.

There is no need for this program as most violent crimes in the county are committed by local, white residents. In the very unlikely case that an undocumented immigrant is detained for a violent crime, there are procedures in place to transfer the individual to the correct detention facility. 287g agreements bolster white supremist confidence that crimes against people of color will likely go unreported. In fact, it's been shown that crime rates are higher with 287gs.

We also support our brothers and sisters in fellow Western Maryland counties where these 287g agreements have led to racial profiling and the unconstitutional imprisonment of Brown and Black individuals with no criminal offenses, impacting families and hard-working members of communities.

It is for these reasons that we ask you to vote in support of SB SB0245.

GCNAACP Branch Leadership

SB0245 letter.pdf
Uploaded by: Gena Wade
Position: FAV

703.819.6280
GENACWADE@GMAIL.COM

44930 GLEBE LANE
VALLEY LEE, MD 20692

JANUARY 20, 2026

DEAR SENATOR SMITH,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB0001, prohibiting the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement with the federal government. I am disgusted by the extralegal actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and do not want agents of Maryland governments to be used as instruments for disgraceful federal policies and barbaric execution of them.

I am proud to be a Maryland resident, and I would like law enforcement operating in our state to be held to a higher standard than that presently demonstrated by our federal government.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GENA C. WADE

RESIDENT, ST. MARY'S COUNTY

SB0245_GeorgeBourozikas_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: George Bourozikas
Position: FAV

Thursday January 22, 2026

George Bourozikas
Baltimore, MD 21201

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: George Bourozikas

My name is George Bourozikas. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I am an IT professional, and I live and work in Baltimore City with my wife. This is where we raised our two daughters.

In 2012, I entered the George H. Fallon Federal Building in downtown Baltimore and had my naturalization interview. A few weeks later I was a naturalized citizen of the United States. So it was with great sadness that, thirteen years later, I stood in front of that same building protesting the illegal arrest and vindictive prosecution of Kilmar Ábrego García. I cried while I and many of our friends and neighbors watched in silence as Mr. Garcia walked in the building only to be arrested by ICE and separated from his family and community.

Mr. García and all immigrants are us - most of us have an immigrant story. They are our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and cherished members of our community. Their contribution is invaluable: in fellowship, culture, diversity, productivity. It is our duty as Marylanders to protect our brothers and sisters, whether they are documented or not. At a minimum we should make it impossible for any state official in Maryland to cooperate in any way with federal authorities when they demonize, terrorize, and persecute them. We cannot stop ICE but we *can* make sure that no Maryland jurisdiction is allowed to cooperate with them.

This bill will help to achieve this. It will also send a strong message to the rest of the country that we are willing to stand up to injustice and be our brothers' and sisters' keepers.
I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.

Testimony on Senate Bill.pdf
Uploaded by: Gita Lefstein
Position: FAV

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 Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I have accompanied a number of immigrants to immigration related appointments and it has brought the issue of ICE detentions and deportations alive for me, not just something you read about or see on TV. The fear and pain in the immigrant community are very real. People are afraid to have any contact with law enforcement. This means they are less likely to report crimes or cooperate with law enforcement, even when they are victims. This leaves all of us less safe. SB245 would stop immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) in Maryland, and therefore help reduce the fear.

Local law enforcement is supposed to improve safety and help communities. When local enforcement is working with ICE, resources are diverted from helping the community and instead become involved in ICE's terrorizing of communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you.

Senate Bill 0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Giuliana Valencia-Banks
Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 0245
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Giuliana Valencia-Banks, and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 0245. I'm a proud resident of Baltimore City that has chosen this state as my home for the last 17 years.

I offer this testimony not only as a professional working with immigrant communities across Maryland, but also from the lived experience of immigrants and families who navigate daily life under the fear and uncertainty created by entanglement between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement.

SB 0245 is a critical step toward restoring trust between immigrant communities and the public institutions meant to serve and protect them.

For many immigrants, interactions with local government — whether with police, county agencies, or courts — are essential to daily life. Parents must feel safe driving their children to school. Workers must feel safe reporting wage theft. Survivors of domestic violence must feel safe calling 911. When local law enforcement enters into immigration enforcement agreements, that safety disappears.

These agreements turn trusted public servants into extensions of federal immigration enforcement. The result is not increased public safety, but increased fear. Community members avoid reporting crimes, serving as witnesses, or seeking help. This undermines the very foundation of effective policing and community-based public safety.

SB 0245 recognizes an important truth: civil immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, not a state or local one. Local governments are best positioned to focus on what they do best — protecting public safety, responding to emergencies, and serving residents — not enforcing complex federal immigration law.

From the immigrant perspective, this bill sends a powerful message:
That Maryland values fairness.
That Maryland understands the difference between public safety and immigration enforcement.
That Maryland believes families deserve dignity, stability, and trust in their government.

The requirement to terminate existing agreements by July 1, 2026, provides a responsible and orderly transition, while making clear that Maryland will no longer participate in policies that erode community trust.

Immigrants are essential to Maryland's economy, culture, and civic life. We are workers, parents, business owners, caregivers, students, and neighbors. Policies that isolate us or push us into the shadows do not make our communities safer — they make them weaker.

SB 0245 strengthens public safety by strengthening trust. It protects civil rights, preserves local resources, and ensures that Maryland remains a state where all residents can engage with government without fear.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Giuliana Valencia-Banks
1310 Medfiled Ave
Baltimore, MD 21211

SB245 judiciary 2 (1).pdf
Uploaded by: Gwen DuBois
Position: FAV

CHESAPEAKE PSR PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

1985 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Testimony on: **SB245** Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition-
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: January 22, 2026

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility is an organization of over 880 supporters, that was founded by physicians and which strongly supports **SB245,** a bill that will prohibit municipal, county, and state officials from entering into an agreement with Federal immigration enforcement agencies and will terminate current agreements.

Arresting fellow Marylanders, detaining them, deporting them, and too often, using unnecessary force without appropriate oversight, is a threat to all of us and we are obliged to support efforts to stop these **violations of human rights.**

Maryland citizens and immigrants married to American citizens in the process of establishing their legal status have been arrested and detained. In Salisbury, after delivering her 5 year-old child to kindergarten, a mother was swarmed by 7 ICE agents, extracted from her car, detained, and then sent to a Louisiana detention facility where she remains weeks later.[1] Her attorney is fighting to block her deportation to Honduras. Deep cuts in staffing have seriously undermined the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and other Federal immigration detention offices mandated by Congress as watchdogs of DHS immigration practices. Replacing leadership with an advocate for dismantling these oversite agencies has occurred in the context of reports of inhumane conditions at detention centers including deaths and are a cause for alarm. [2]

Recent events in Minneapolis have convinced even those of us who had no reason to fear ICE and CBP in the past that we are not safe if we decide to protest peacefully what is happening to our neighbors.

People who are not Caucasian, especially those who speak with a Spanish accent, are increasingly terrorized and afraid to come out of their homes. CPSR supporters who are health care providers know that we cannot take care of our patients if they are afraid to come into our offices or hospital or clinics, if they are afraid to pick up their medicines at the pharmacy, if they are afraid to get important tests and procedures. Delay in care can lead a disease to be more

[1] https://www.baltimoresun.com/2026/01/09/ice-denies-bond-salisbury-mother-parrazal/?clearUserState=true
[2] https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/08/politics/homeland-security-watchdog-cuts

advanced and more difficult to treat. Delay can have an impact on a wide community if it involves infections. It can cause mental as well as physical harm, and children are especially vulnerable.[3]

A recent report by the Kaiser Family Foundation[4] reported how the fear of being apprehended, including fear of family separations, resulted in fewer immigrant families seeking health care and other related services to which they were entitled. This impacted even those with protected legal status and impacted behaviors even after more protective regulations were passed. Allowing our immigrant neighbors to attend to their medical needs and other fundamental activities that keep them healthy of mind as well as of body, will improve the lives of all of us who live in Maryland.

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility urges you to pass SB245 and keep Marylanders of all different immigration statuses healthy and safe. Maryland officials should not be partnering at this time with an agency that is out of control, lacks oversight, and endangers the rights of all people including those who call Maryland their home.

Gwen L. DuBois MD, MPH
President, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
gdubois@jhsph.edu

[3] https://www.healthbeat.org/newyork/2025/01/29/your-local-epidemiologist-ice-raids-effects-on-health/
[4] https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/potential-impacts-of-mass-detention-and-deportation-efforts-on-the-health-and-well-being-of-immigrant-families/

SB245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Hana Lee
Position: FAV

SB 245
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Hana Lee
Support

I was born and raised in Maryland and currently attend the University of Maryland. I have always been proud of how diverse Maryland is and how safe I felt living in Maryland as a second-generation immigrant with immigrant parents. However, recently, I have not felt this same pride in my state. Now I am always concerned that my parents or friends could be profiled for their appearance or the language they speak. I see the news, and I know that there is little to nothing that separates me from people who have been arrested, brutalized, and even murdered by immigration enforcement.

I am tired of being afraid to go outside and speak my language with my family. I am tired of being afraid for other members of my community, and students and workers on campus. Most of all, I am tired of empty promises with no enforcement power. Resistance against the abuse of power and violence seen in federal immigration enforcement should not be up for question.

Protect the people of Maryland. Pass SB245.

2026 Testimony SB0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Heather Thomas
Position: FAV

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition / SB0245

Official Testimony

Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Heather Thomas, and I'm a Rosedale resident and a member of District 6. I support SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

This bill will protect residents from ICE, especially immigrants and people of color.

I believe that passing of this bill is essential because every day I see more news stories about people being harassed and terrorized by ICE. ICE has proven themselves to be poorly trained and violent. They racially profile and disregard our constitutional rights. The idea of my local government cooperating with such a volatile organization makes me feel less safe.

Their disregard for public safety includes that of children. This week I saw news stories about ICE tear gassing a family of 6, including a 6 month old baby, and violently arresting a 17 year old U.S. citizen as he worked his shift at Target. As a mom of two, I would fear more for my children's safety if my local government is cooperating with ICE.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on **SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.**

Sincerely,
Heather Thomas
heatherthomas513@gmail.com
443-600-0653

SB0245_HenryGordon_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Henry Gordon
Position: FAV

January 20, 2026

Henry Gordon
Silver Spring, MD 20910

TESTIMONY ON SB#0245 - POSITION: (FAVORABLE)
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Henry F. Gordon

My name is Henry Gordon. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

I am a retired economist who spent my professional career working in developing countries. Currently I am involved in Park Hills and Seven Oaks neighborhood associations, and over the past several years have volunteered with Silver Spring Village, helping provide services to local residents aging in place.

My grandfather and my grandmother's family left Lithuania and East Prussia in the late 19th century to migrate to the United States. My grandparents were hard-working, proud citizens who put high value on an American political creed of equal opportunity, pluralism and toleration. This is part of my moral and political inheritance and one reason I respect the US Constitution and its 14th Amendment, which says: "No State shall …deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws". Given my family's experience, I place great weight on the fact that the term "any person" includes immigrants, whether documented or not.

As part of the federal government's mass deportation campaign, ICE violates the 14th amendment's provisions every day. This invasion destabilizes communities, breaks families apart and makes minority populations targets for racial profiling. I see the effects in Silver Spring. When I tried to distribute small signs to local businesses this fall saying "No Kings, No ICE, No Fear - Immigrants Are Welcome Here" only a few out of two dozen would take the signs.This is not because they disagreed but because they feared drawing attention to themselves and causing retribution for their immigrant customers and workers. The few who did accept the signs ended up not displaying them.

ICE's 287(g) agreements turn local law enforcement into enablers of a lawless mass deportation machine. The General Assembly must pass legislation to end existing 287(g) agreements in eight Maryland counties and ban future agreements with state and local authorities. Prohibiting 287(g) agreements in Maryland will not stop ICE activities but we must do what we can to stem this domestic onslaught. It is supported by massive federal budgetary resources, and shows every sign of accelerating.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.

SB245 - End 287g agreements.pdf
Uploaded by: Holly Powell
Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of **District 46. I am testifying in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

The End 287g Agreements Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in eight Maryland counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including: increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resulting "chilling effect" in Hispanic communities.[1] Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program"[2] Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who "posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%."[3]

The last Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite urban areas citing costs and the impact on community relations. DHS removed expiration dates and other guardrails that provided any attempted reforms and changes to the agreements under the Obama administration[4]. The current administration has continued to remove restrictions and oversight of ICE, leading inevitably to the horrifying murder of Renee Good in Minneapolis. While we've yet to see similar violence in Maryland, every additional encounter between Marylanders and ICE increases the chance of such an incident. Our local law enforcement should not be initiating these encounters.

Maryland's large immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing $8 billion in federal and $4 billion in state taxes, providing $2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power[5]. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.

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[1] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018

[2] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1

[3] The 287(g) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council

[4] License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); April, 26, 2022

[5] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council

[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

Sincerely,
Holly Powell
2308 Cambridge Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

kennaIda - SB0245.pdf
Uploaded by: ida kenna
Position: FAV

ida kenna
716 e 41st st
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
District 43A

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition
2026-01-20
TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr. & the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: ida kenna, Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America,

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is ida kenna, I live in Baltimore City, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB 0245, Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I.C.E. has always been an unlawful agency that terrorizes undocumented people, many of whom deserve legal status but have lost it due to bureaucratic dysfunction. Every resident of our country, and our state, deserves the same rights as those of us who are citizens.

But importantly, under this current federal regime, immigration enforcement has become explicitly an ethnic cleansing campaign. Various federal agencies and officials have amply provided evidence of this intention in public statements, including all over social media, often using (neo-)Nazi and otherwise far-right nationalist imagery and tropes in doing so, such as the 14 words, the word "remigration" etc.

This has also been demonstrated in practice. ICE raids have had cities in the form of surges and even occupations, at times including backup from federally deployed National Guard troops against the consent of the states being invaded. While this is a breach of the rights of undocumented migrants as well as citizens, so has been their "policing" -- citizens in many cities have been arrested for being people of color and, as far as the racist gestapo are concerned, "looking like immigrants".

As a trans woman, I'm also concerned for the steps this massive expansion and overtly fascist change of program that ICE has undergone takes us toward fascist federal eugenics goals, such as removing trans people from public existence, and the same for many disabled, autistic, Black, and other people they consider "degenerate". Along with punishing people, primarily women, for seeking abortions and contraceptive care.

Please let Maryland be a safer place for all of us than elsewhere in our country. Prohibiting our police from enacting and supporting ICE's racist goals is one small step towards ensuring the people wearing those badges are discharging their duties faithfully. I urge you to support SB 0245 and help ensure that Maryland’s law enforcement is being held to the highest standards of conduct and are focused on their duties.

Ishai Barnoy - SB245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Ishai Barnoy
Position: FAV

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 Ishai Barnoy, and I am a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I care about prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with ICE first and foremost because of the horrifying images and stories out of the takeover in Minneapolis, most recently, but also from previous instances all around the nation. It really looks like a lawless descent of Trump's personal thugs as a way to punish people who do not support him. But it's more than that, it finally obviously looks like this is what ICE and by extension the whole DHS was meant to be: A tool of state terror, to be applied not only against innocent immigrants, but also citizens.

Being that I, myself, am an immigrant and a naturalized citizen, I am terrified by and furious about ICE. I urge you to support any effort to allow the state of Maryland to stand up to that department of violent goons and to protect the residents of Maryland by opposing ICE in this way but also any possible way.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses —even when they are victims.

Growing up in Maryland, before I was naturalized, I remember seeing not only the joy that immigrants felt in finding community and belonging in the state of Maryland but also the caution borne from incipient fear. The initial creation of ICE and the recent activities of that organization has taken these fears to their logical conclusion, creating concentration camps where horrifying acts are being committed against immigrants, and kidnapping innocent people off the streets to institute a state of widespread terror.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

To decouple law enforcement from ICE would be a major step in protecting the immigrant communities of Maryland, as well as the citizens who share in the overall community alongside these immigrants. With law enforcement present in courts, in hospitals, and other places, immigrants could resume the normal operation of their lives, and the state of terror can finally be brought to an end.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ishai Barnoy

240-888-6461
ishaibarnoy@gmail.com
2705 Montebello Terrace,
Baltimore, MD 21214

SB 245 support J Brinkmann.pdf
Uploaded by: Jackie Brinkmann
Position: FAV

JACQUELINE BRINKMAN
SB 245
FAVORABLE

I proudly support **SB 245** because it reflects Maryland's commitment to public safety, community trust, and the effective use of law enforcement resources. Local law enforcement's primary mission should be to protect all Maryland residents — regardless of their immigration status — by focusing on violent and serious crime, not acting as agents for federal immigration enforcement. By ending 287(g)-style agreements, this bill helps remove barriers between law enforcement and the communities they serve, ensuring that victims and witnesses are not afraid to report crimes or cooperate with investigations out of fear of immigration consequences. As supporters of community safety know, trust between police and the public is essential to crime prevention and successful policing.

Furthermore, SB 245 affirms the principle that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility and should not divert limited local resources from core public safety priorities. When Maryland's officers are not tasked with federal immigration duties, they can concentrate on addressing crime trends that most impact our neighborhoods — from property crime to violent offenses. This bill also respects the dignity of all Maryland residents and reinforces the idea that our communities are safer when everyone feels secure and protected, not targeted. For these reasons, I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to support SB 245 and advance a more equitable, focused, and effective approach to public safety for our state.

Testimony on Senate Bill 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Jaclyn Tekiela
Position: FAV

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 Jaclyn Tekiela, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

We MUST take any action possible to defend the lives and safety of immigrants – and all people of color regardless of immigration status – unjustly racially targeted by the corrupt operations of ICE and the White House. It shouldn't take a personal experience with immigration enforcement officers to know that what is happening in our communities is inhumane and disgusting. Children are afraid to go to school. People of color are afraid to leave their houses to go to work or buy groceries. People protesting unlawful ICE operations are being murdered in the streets.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

This is not about right or left – this is RIGHT or WRONG. Defund ICE, stop the spread of terror and violence, and stand UP to the despicable people tearing families and communities apart to serve their white supremacist agenda. Support for this bill is one small step toward a safer, kinder Maryland. Let us be leaders in the country and follow our neighbor Delaware's example!

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB245_Testimony_JamesKitchin.docx.pdf
Uploaded by: James Kitchin
Position: FAV

SB 245 - Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Thursday, January 22, 2026
Judicial Proceedings Committee

POSITION: SUPPORT
SUBMITTED BY: James Kitchin, PhD

Good afternoon Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee,

My name is James Kitchin, and I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill 245, which would prohibit the State, local governments, and county sheriffs from entering into immigration enforcement agreements with the federal government.

Why This Bill Matters

287(g) agreements deputize local law enforcement to carry out federal immigration functions. While proponents argue these programs enhance public safety, the academic research tells a very different story. The broad body of evidence from academic research demonstrate that 287(g) programs:

1. **Increase racial profiling by local police**. Studies consistently show that jurisdictions with 287(g) agreements experience higher rates of pretextual stops targeting Black and Brown communities.

2. **Increase incarceration rates in communities of color.** These programs disproportionately funnel residents into the deportation pipeline, separating families and destabilizing communities. This is true even when the detained residents are law abiding citizens with no criminal record.

3. **Decrease trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement.** When residents fear that any interaction with police could lead to deportation, they stop reporting crimes, cooperating with investigations, and seeking emergency services. This makes everyone less safe.

4. **Decrease economic output. Immigrant communities are pillars of local economies**. When families are torn apart and workers are removed, businesses close and overall economic output declines.

5. **Waste local resources.** Local governments that participate in these programs spend local revenue performing a function of the federal government. This is a poor use of resources.

SB0245, by preventing these cooperative agreements with ICE, will increase trust, increase racial justice, make all Maryland residents safer, improve our economy, and make local government more efficient.

What We Learned in Anne Arundel County

I speak not only as a researcher of local government immigration policies but as a practitioner as well. I have worked for the Pittman Administration in Anne Arundel County for the past seven years

(though, to be clear, I am submitting this testimony as a private resident). Anne Arundel has the somewhat unique experience of having adopted a 287(g) agreement in 2017, under a previous administration, and then made the decision to end it a year later, under the Pittman Administration. I contributed substantially to the research and analysis that justified ending the program, drawing on both academic literature and what we heard directly from community members. The evidence was clear: the program was harming our residents without making anyone safer.

A much better way to increase public safety is to establish trust between all communities and law enforcement and to make government services more accessible.

Why Maryland Should Act Now

In the current federal climate, the protection this bill provides is more urgent than ever. Local governments are under pressure to collaborate with federal immigration enforcement, and the consequences fall hardest on the most vulnerable members of our communities. Maryland should make clear that we will not use state or local resources to detain, deport, or separate immigrant families.

I have studied this issue academically and have helped implement the alternative in practice. Both the research and the experience in Anne Arundel County confirms it: communities are stronger, safer, and more prosperous when we reject 287(g) programs and instead invest in building trust with all residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 245.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Kitchin, PhD
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

CASA anti 287 JAN 2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Jan Kleinman
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

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

My name is Jan Kleinman and I am a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

As a Jewish-American, I am keenly aware that just 2 generations ago, my own ancestors were unwelcome in their home countries. They were told they did not belong, faced hatred and discrimination, and in the worst cases, were separated unwillingly from their families. Thanks to the United States, which allowed them to settle and make homes here, my family survived. I am here today because this country gave my ancestors safe refuge. Others deserve this same chance. No one deserves to be a target of discrimination.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I visited my favorite Mexican restaurant last weekend. It was hauntingly empty. The owner said his usual customers are afraid to come out to eat lunch.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Baltimore City has plenty of neighborhoods where gun fire is too common and people fear their neighbors' anger. Already, many Baltimoreans are afraid to visit my downtown neighborhood; they fear gun violence. We all need our police to be focused on keeping neighborhoods safe, not on supporting federal deportation efforts.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jan Kleinman

250 President ST Unit 508

Baltimore, MD 21202

sb245favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Jane Tamagna
Position: FAV

SB245
Favorable
Jane Tamagna

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:
I submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 245, prohibiting 287(g) agreements in the State of Maryland .

I write from personal experience, not things I've read or heard. I am a middle class white woman from Middletown, Maryland. I work as a business consultant and work, shop, and socialize on the Golden Mile, the Frederick district representing the largest part of Frederick's immigrant community. I have long term clients, friends, favorite shops, doctors, and employees from the district.

Here's what I know. These are long term tax paying residents of the County. They lead their children's PTAs, volunteer in the community, run businesses, and employ others. They spur economic growth in the County and contribute to our tax base.
I know from hundreds of conversations that these important members of our community are afraid to – and in many cases have stopped - leaving their homes to take children to the school bus stop, go to work, go shopping, go to doctor's appointments, or leave their home for any reason because of the real and very present danger posed by ICE augmented by the Frederick 287(g) program. The community is in the most literal sense of the word, terrified.

And because of Frederick's 287(g) program, this community is also unwilling to call the police when they see crime because the responding officer is not just a Frederick County officer, but an ICE agent. A 911 call for a public safety emergency invites arrest and handover to ICE for an innocent caller.

If this seems unlikely to you, you are not hearing from or reaching out to the schools who deal with absent and traumatized children, shopkeepers who are closing doors because customers have stopped showing up, employers whose workers cannot safely leave their homes to come to work.

The lie that ICE is acting against criminals has always been and remains a dangerous lie. 73% of people detained by ICE have NO convictions; only 5% have violent convictions..many for lesser violations including traffic.

Our police officers should not be augmenting ICE. Our police officers should not be taking part in raids on churches, homes, businesses, or non-profits to round up people who are NOT criminals. Our police officers should not be the symbol of terror and violence to children and their parents.

I strongly urge you to support Senate bill 245. You cannot end ICE's presence in Maryland but you can assure that Maryland resources do not contribute to unwarranted, life threatening attacks on our immigrant (and non-immigrant) community.

Do what is in your power to end 287(g) in Maryland. Our community deserves better.

Respectfully,
Jane Tamagna

SB245 Janelle Wong testimony 1_22_26.pdf
Uploaded by: Janelle Wong
Position: FAV

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 **Janelle Wong**, and I am a **resident of Montgomery County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I am writing in my capacity as a scholar and researcher of Asian American Studies and as an Asian American resident of this state. Immigrants account for more than a third of our state population. Immigrants from Asia make-up more than half of the foreign-born population in Howard County, and more than a third in Montgomery, Carroll, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel Counties. And, about 1 out of every 7 Asian immigrants is undocumented.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Asian Americans have seen anti-immigrant sentiment hit our communities hard in the past. Chinese migrants to the U.S. were the first "undocumented" immigrants in U.S. history, arriving under Chinese Exclusion policies in the late 1880s. And our communities were subject to raids, deportations, and racial profiling during that period.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB245 Janet Sumida Testimony .pdf
Uploaded by: Janet Sumida
Position: FAV

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 Janet Sumida, and I am a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I am a retiree who has lived in Montgomery County for decades. Over the years, I have befriended many immigrants and their families. I have been watching the news and am enraged by the new brutal and illegal tactics used by ICE agents against people who are just trying to make a living and contribute to our communities.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Sumida

Testimony in favor of SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Janet Tupper
Position: FAV

My name Is Janet Tupper and offer a **favorable testimony** in support of **SB0245 with a full ban on 287g agreements statewide.**

As a Garrett County resident, I am disappointed that Sheriff Bryson Meyers entered into a 287(g) agreement in 2024. While I appreciate the listening sessions with Sheriff Meyers where he explained his thoughtful consideration of adopting the 287g program as well as his assurances to refrain from engaging in racial profiling, he is an elected official. This leaves the county subject to subjective interpretations of a future county sheriff who may have a more aggressive stance.

There apparently have not been any immigrant referrals to this point, however, I am aware that there are residents in the community who feel very unsafe and fearful. I do not feel this is good for our community.

Garrett County is rural part of the state with lowest percentages of minorities, as well as the third lowest general population in Maryland. The few local people of color or those with accents already encounter overt racism from locals, and often feel nervous, unwelcome and unsafe (as reported in a 2023 Commissioner's Report Community Survey). Those who look or sound different (no matter what their legal status) have become potential targets, and understandably hesitant to draw further attention to themselves. **When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses, even when they are victims. That makes everyone less safe.**

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. I do not want that to potentially happen in Garrett County.

The prohibition on immigration enforcement agreements would preserve a working relationship with federal immigration enforcement in certain circumstances, but would eliminate the controversial 287 (g) program agreements with ICE. Therefore, there is no need for local law enforcement to work directly with ICE.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB0245 - Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

Sincerely,

Janet Tupper
6 West Pennington Street, Oakland MD 21550
Janet.tupper@gmail.com

Testimony in favor of SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Janet Tupper
Position: FAV

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Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. I do not want that to happen in Garrett County.

I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB0245 - Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

Sincerely,

Janet Tupper
6 West Pennington Street, Oakland MD 21550
Janet.tupper@gmail.com

FAVORABLE SB0245_Jean Cavanaugh.pdf
Uploaded by: Jean Cavanaugh
Position: FAV

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 Jean Cavanaugh and I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland, State legislative district 4. **I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I am retired now, but much of my career was working for the U.S. government helping to encourage democratic practices around the world. I was always proud to explain our Constitution and Bill of Rights, to describe how the U.S. is a country of immigrants working together to advance American values. Foreign governments wanted to emulate us - things like our justice system and community policing, public libraries and consumer protections. Many were most interested in our civil rights struggles and how people from all backgrounds have protections allowing free speech and freedom of religion, and guaranteeing due process under law.

It would be challenging to promote the U.S. as a model of democracy now.

These basic values are being challenged and violated when it comes to the efforts of this Administration to deport thousands of members of our communities here in Maryland and across the U.S.

The actions of the federal government are chaotic, inconsistent and cruel. Many of those forcibly taken by ICE have permission to be here or have pending asylum claims. Many are our neighbors, friends or employees. They are not "the worst of the worst." Families and neighborhoods are being torn apart. Children are separated from their moms and dads. Detainees have disappeared into a system with hundreds of documented constitutional and human rights violations.

Until our government creates a just and predictable process for immigration that respects those who share our values of family, hard work, opportunity and fairness, we Marylanders and our law enforcement agencies cannot be complicit in this Administration's detention and deportation actions. We must say no to cooperating with ICE.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

At one time, my state Senator suggested there was no support in District 4 for banning 287(g) agreements. I beg to differ. There are immigrant justice supporters from Urbana to Emmitsburg, Middletown to Adamstown.

Please vote favorably for SB 245 and make sure it is a clean bill completely banning 287(g) agreements and all agreements between Maryland law enforcement and ICE/CBP. I urge you to pass this bill early in the session with no carve-outs or compromises.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245** with no carve-outs or compromises.

Thank you.

Jean Cavanaugh

7108 Ridge Crest Dr

Frederick, MD 21702

Montgomery J SB0245 Written Testimony Fav.pdf
Uploaded by: Jean Montgomery Nguyen
Position: FAV

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,

Thank you, committee members Smith, Ferguson, and Lewis Young, for sponsoring this important public safety bill. My name is Jean Montgomery, and I am a community member of Olney, Maryland and a District 14 resident. I am writing **in strong support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.** I offer this written testimony both as a representative of Indivisible MoCoWoMen and as a private citizen.

I personally care about this issue because I have a multicultural family, some of which are naturalized citizens. My family contributes to our state and our local economies, as public servants, medical professionals, business owners, and job creators for teams of employees. We travel along highways and parkways to go to work and travel home every day, the very same roads that ICE vehicles zip up and down in order to get to Maryland counties which have 287g agreements, such as Allegany, Carroll, Cecil, Garrett, Harford, St. Mary's, and Washington County. When a family member is late, my heart catches in my throat. Where are they? Are they okay? Has the very government that granted them protection and asylum from a war-torn country now seeking to take them away? These feel like strange, unreal fears while living in America and raising our children. But given the lawlessness and aggression with which ICE operates and the denaturalization rhetoric coming from the very top of our federal government, this is a very real visceral fear.

I am lucky in that whenever I have experienced this, my family member (s) has/have arrived home safely. Others in Maryland have not been so lucky. Like…

- Gelber, kidnapped on his way to work, leaving behind his wife, three children, and an 8-person construction crew he managed as part of his small business.
- Luis, kidnapped by ICE after attending a regular immigration check-in, leaving behind a wife and three children.
- Franco, kidnapped by ICE while finishing work, leaving behind a wife and small children.
- A father and small business owner in Watkins Mills, kidnapped by ICE on his way to work, leaving behind a wife and three kids.
- H, a 17 year old senior at Montgomery Blair High School, whose father was kidnapped by ICE and now finds himself responsible for finishing school, paying the household expenses, and obtaining legal aid for his father.
- And many, many more.

I **support SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims. It sets neighborhoods and communities on a hyper-vigilant edge, that the very public servants in whom we should trust could hurt us. Programs like 287(g) have also been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities. When these egregious agreements are in place, our Maryland residents are not protected, and families, schools, neighborhoods, communities, and economies are destabilized. Indeed, would you want to put down roots, buy homes, start businesses, and invest in the local economies of Allegany, Carroll, Cecil, Garrett, Harford, St. Mary's, and Washington County, if the very law enforcement there, sworn to protect you, had a partnership that could unlawfully hurt you?

I **support SB 245** because doing so supports our state industries and economy. Highways and parkways cross our state, linking cities, towns, and business centers. ICE menaces our economies when it limits residents ability to travel our very own roadways, due to the threat of illegal search, seizure, and imprisonment without judicial warrant. Willingness to conduct business and take entrepreneurial risks shrinks under this terrorizing environment. For example, a close family friend operates a home improvement business with a 20-man crew. His employees are honest, hardworking people, some of which are citizens, some of which are in the long process of becoming citizens, many of which have brown skin and are Spanish-speaking. Our family friend is loath to have his crews travel highways, parkways, and roads near or take up lucrative business contracts near the Maryland counties which have 287g agreements, for fear that some of his employees may not make it home. When business owners do not take risks, what kind of economic impact does that have on our state's prosperity?

Lastly, I support SB 245 because doing so improves safety, trust, and fairness in our community. Each person in the United States should be able to wake, live, learn or work, connect with family and friends, rest, and wake again without the fear or threat of illegal searches, seizures, trafficked transport across state lines, and imprisonment without due process or a free and fair trial. Given that ICE operates lawlessly, with impunity, aggression, and cruelty, when Maryland police officers operate with them, our state's legal standards, character, and honor is sullied. Let's wash out the stain and restore faith in our Constitutional freedoms, trust in our state law enforcement process, safety in our community, and fairness through equal access and protection under the law.

For these above stated reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue **a favorable report on SB 245.** For our children, families, neighbors, communities, and economy. **For Maryland**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jean Montgomery
Private Citizen
Indivisible MoCoWoMen Steering Committee Member

IBCTestimony_SB0245 (1).pdf
Uploaded by: Jennifer Blalock
Position: FAV

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,

Indivisible Baltimore County respectfully submits this testimony in **strong support of Senate Bill 245**. We urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report on this legislation, without amendments**.

Indivisible Baltimore County is a progressive, grassroots civic engagement organization committed to peaceful action, responsive and accountable government, and advancing social, economic, and environmental justice. Our work is grounded in defending democracy and supporting policies that promote and protect the rights and dignity of all people in our communities. These values guide our support for SB 245. As an allied organization, we stand in solidarity with immigrant-led organizations, service providers, and community advocates whose leadership and lived experience must guide policies that affect immigrant communities.

SB 245 takes an important step to strengthen public safety and community trust by prohibiting state and local government entities from entering into or maintaining agreements that deputize local law enforcement to carry out civil immigration enforcement. These agreements blur the line between local public safety responsibilities and federal immigration enforcement, undermining trust between residents and government institutions.

When individuals fear that interactions with local law enforcement or government agencies could lead to immigration consequences, they are less likely to report crimes, cooperate with investigations, seek medical care, enroll their children in school, or access public services. This erosion of trust harms not only immigrant communities, but the safety and well-being of all Maryland residents.

SB 245 helps ensure that state and local resources are used for their intended purpose: serving the public, promoting safety, and upholding the dignity of all who live in Maryland. By establishing clear, statewide standards, this bill promotes consistency, accountability, and effective governance across jurisdictions.

For these reasons, Indivisible Baltimore County strongly supports SB 245 and respectfully urges the Committee to issue a **favorable report without amendment**.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership.

Jennifer Blalock

Steering Committee Representative for Indivisible Baltimore County

SB245TestimonyJarvis.pdf
Uploaded by: Jennifer Jarvis
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 20, 2026

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

My name is Jennifer Jarvis, and I am a native-born US citizen and resident of Baltimore City. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

We are all watching ordinary, peaceful citizens be brutalized by ICE agents on a daily basis in places like Minneapolis; no one should ever be treated like that by anyone, let alone government employees whose salaries we pay with our tax dollars. These agents often refuse to identify themselves, produce judicial warrants or follow procedures for humane investigation and detention that law enforcement is supposed to adhere to in a free country. I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear not just in immigrant communities, but everywhere.

Maybe you don't care about immigrant communities; I understand the Trump administration WANTS to stoke fear in our communities, but Maryland has to take a stand for the sake of everyone. If local law enforcement supports ICE, they risk an even greater decline in trust and support amongst ALL residents. If armed masked thugs can roam our streets in an unconstitutional manner with the support of our police and sheriffs' departments, the rule of law will be lost. I've never wanted to own a gun in my life, but I'm not sure what else to do when we see ICE disregard the constitution and human decency by breaking into people's cars and homes. If ICE shows up at my house without a judicial warrant to detain my naturalized-citizen husband and tries to break into a door or window (which is happening), I doubt I could call the police for help, right?

I would personally support abolishing ICE, but even if you don't agree I would hope you could see how folly it would be to allow ICE to run rampant in our state as they have been for the past year. You're shooting yourselves in the foot if you don't reign them in and make them follow the law; support for ICE is plummeting across the country as we witness atrocities we thought could not happen on a mass scale in the United States of America. Someone dies every few days in ICE detention facilities right now, we all watched the murder of Renee Good and the near-death of a six-month old baby from chemical attack; **OUR ELECTED LEADERS MUST TAKE DECISIVE ACTION TO PROTECT MARYLAND COMMUNITIES. The time for sharply worded letters is OVER.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Jarvis
4326 Evans Chapel Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21211
jajbookbinder@gmail.com

FAVORABLE SB0245_JeredEbenreck.pdf
Uploaded by: Jered Ebenreck
Position: FAV

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

My name is Jered Ebenreck, and I am a resident of Calvert County, **Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims. Our local police must be concerned with local safety, not collaborating to create fear. I am uninterested in seeing any Maryland law enforcement participate willingly in what amounts to masked Federal assaults on human beings regardless of citizenship status. Working with Immigration Enforcement exceeds the mandates of protecting and serving our local communities.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. When we know that immigration status is not on the mind of local law enforcement, we will not fear calling in a medical emergency for somebody in the grocery store or on the highway; we will not wonder what unintended consequences come of our efforts to help our neighbors. 287(g) makes immigrants and citizens question who our police really serve.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jered Ebenreck, jebenreck@icloud.com

FAVORABLE SB0245_Jeremiah_Raftovich.pdf
Uploaded by: Jeremiah Raftovich
Position: FAV

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

My name is **Jeremiah Raftovich** and I am a **resident of Anne Arundel County Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I think that it is unacceptable that in the state of Maryland people have reason to fear a humiliating, disruptive, or dangerous encounter with federal immigration enforcement due to interactions with local police.

I support **SB 245** because it would eliminate immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) that create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

It is clear to see that ICE and other federal agencies are using violent, racially motivated tactics to create fear across the country. Our state and local governments should not be involved in this unjust campaign. Our communities are stepping up to inform their neighbors of what law enforcement is active around them. In Anne Arundel County, which has no 287(g) agreements, residents can be reassured that there is no immigration activity once county police have been confirmed. This situation should be applied across the State.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Our police, sheriffs, and state troopers should be accountable to us, and free to serve us, not ensnared with DHS. They certainly should not be a threat to our immigrant neighbors and our communities due to perceived involvement with DHS's devastating campaign.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

FAVORABLE SB0245 Public Safety - Immigration Enfor

Uploaded by: Jeremy Browning

Position: FAV

Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

Bill Title: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Bill Number(s): SB0245

Position: FAVORABLE

Date: January 20, 2026

Submitted by: Director Jeremy Browning on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

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To:

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

The Hon. Chair William Smith
The Hon. Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher

Testimony on Behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, works to serve LGBTQIA+ Marylanders by galvanizing community voices, researching and addressing challenges, and advocating for policies that advance equity and inclusion. The Commission envisions a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. As a vital resource, the Commission collaborates with public officials, agencies, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected and respected.

The Commission strongly supports SB0245, which prohibits cooperation between state and local law enforcement agencies and federal immigration authorities. These agreements have had a harmful and chilling effect on immigrant communities, particularly LGBTQIA+ immigrants, by increasing the risk of profiling, detention, and deportation. These agreements undermine public trust in law enforcement, jeopardize public safety, and disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, including transgender and nonbinary individuals, asylum seekers, and those fleeing violence and persecution.

SB0245 prohibits local law enforcement from entering into immigration enforcement agreements with federal immigration authorities and requires the termination of existing agreements. This policy will improve trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, encouraging individuals to report crimes, seek protection from domestic violence, and cooperate in investigations without fear of deportation.

National data from the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey underscores the heightened risks of discrimination, violence, and barriers to essential services faced by transgender individuals. Additionally, the Maryland Trans Survey found that a significant percentage of transgender Marylanders have experienced verbal harassment or abuse (81%), threats (57%), and physical

violence (48%). Rates were even higher for trans people in Maryland who also identify as people of color for experiencing physical or sexual assault (58.9%) and being threatened with violence (66.6%). Fear of discrimination often prevents transgender and LGBTQIA+ immigrants from accessing healthcare, law enforcement, and community resources – in the same study, 75.1% of trans people in Maryland reported being very uncomfortable or somewhat uncomfortable with potentially asking for help from police in a medical emergency. For LGBTQIA+ individuals without legal immigration status, these challenges are even greater, as the threat of immigration enforcement discourages them from seeking medical care, reporting crimes, or utilizing social services.

SB0245 promotes cooperation and public safety among immigrants, including LGBTQIA+ immigrants. Additionally, immigrants have the ability to seek healthcare, report crimes, and engage with law enforcement without fear of detention and deportation. The Commission urges the General Assembly to uphold Maryland's commitment to equity and justice by issuing a favorable report on SB0245.

This bill would enhance public safety, build community trust, and support disproportionately impacted LGBTQIA+ immigrants. We must continue to foster an inclusive and safe Maryland by supporting policies that strengthen our communities and reject policies that promote fear and discrimination.

JLM 2026 testimony 287(g).pdf
Uploaded by: Jeremy Mohler
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB0001 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

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

My name is Jeremy Mohler. I am a homeowner and business owner in Baltimore City. I am writing to support SB 0245, Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition. I am a licensed mental health counselor with over five years of experience working in community-based settings and as a psychotherapist in private practice. My professional expertise includes depression, anxiety, trauma—including vicarious trauma—and community-level trauma.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is an unaccountable public agency that is terrorizing undocumented people, many of whom deserve legal status but have lost it due to bureaucratic dysfunction. Every resident of our country, and our state, deserves the same rights as those of us who are citizens.

Please let Maryland be a safer place for all of us than elsewhere in our country. Prohibiting our police from enacting and supporting ICE's racist goals is one small step towards ensuring the people wearing those badges are discharging their duties faithfully. I urge you to support SB 0245 and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement is being held to the highest standards of conduct and are focused on their duties.

Respectfully,
Jeremy Mohler LCPC

CAN Testimony in support of SB245 for Public Safet

Uploaded by: Jerry Kickenson

Position: FAV

CONGREGATION ACTION NETWORK

faith. love. liberation.

fe. amor. Liberación.

Testimony in support, with amendment, of Senate Bill 245
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

To: Hon. William Smith, Jr., chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Jerry Kickenson, Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network

Date: January 20, 2026

We are writing in **support of Senate Bill 245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition,** on behalf of the Congregation Action Network (CAN). The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With congregations and members throughout the capital area, including congregations with hundreds of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

We wish to thank Chairman Smith for sponsoring Senate Bill 245.

As people of faith committed to justice and compassion for immigrants, we adhere to the sacred texts of most major faiths that call for welcoming the stranger and treating each other with love, dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be treated fairly and have the same protections as all Maryland residents.

SB245 will prohibit state and local law enforcement from entering into agreements with the federal government to help enforce federal immigration law, and require those jurisdictions currently in such agreements to end them by July 1 of this year. Our state and local law enforcement agencies have no business enforcing federal immigration law - Maryland residents need these public servants spending their time and effort enforcing state and local laws. These agreements also wreck trust of our immigrant communities in our local law enforcement, to the detriment of all Maryland residents.

Immigrant communities in Maryland are scared, and with good reason. Our member congregations are either directly or indirectly impacted by the current civil immigration enforcement onslaught. Ending the existing civil immigration enforcement agreements, and prohibiting new ones, is one important step in alleviating that fear.

The Congregation Action Network respectfully urges you to reach a **favorable** report for SB245, that will simply get all Maryland law enforcement out of the business of federal immigration enforcement, and back to their real work of enforcing state and local laws, while aligning Maryland law with our values and commitment to the protection and respect of all Maryland residents.

Respectfully yours,
Jerry Kickenson
Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network
Silver Spring, MD

Favorable SB245 to ban 287(g).pdf
Uploaded by: Jesse Reilly
Position: FAV

Favorable: SB245 to ban 287(g)

My name is Jesse Reilly and I am writing as a member of the Baltimore Rapid Response Network, a coalition put together to connect passionate members of the community with ways they can make a difference in causes they are passionate about. I have seen firsthand how powerful community can be. This is why all of us with BRRN want to testify that we are favorable with SB245 and urge our state government to ban any agreement with local law enforcement and immigration enforcement. All over the news we are seeing horrific events where immigration enforcement are given free reign to carry out their interpretation of the law. These agents are overly reactive, disturbingly undertrained, and are clearly making the cities where they have a large presence less and less safe for all. Creating an environment where our local law enforcement are required to partner with these groups makes us even less safe, as their whims and power are unchecked. People deserve to feel safe on their way to work, studying, dropping their kids off at school, worshipping, seeking medical attention, and seeking help from local authorities when they themselves are victims of crimes. How could someone who may be racially profiled call the police after having been robbed, mugged, or assaulted, if they know the police are going to turn them in? Even those not at risk for having their immigration status questioned will lose trust in local law enforcement, and people already likely to be victims of crimes become even more vulnerable targets. It is simply better for the state of Maryland to ban 287(g), and to cancel any potential existing agreements with local enforcement and immigration enforcement.

SB245 FAV FCG OCE JF LS26.pdf
Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater
Position: FAV

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

SB 245 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

DATE:	January 22, 2026
COMMITTEE:	Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
POSITION:	Favorable
FROM:	The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **SB 245 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition** a favorable report.

This legislation aims to address concerns about conflicting federal, state, and local policies regarding immigration enforcement, by eliminating the use of local "immigration enforcement agreements" such as the harmful 287(g) program.

As we have watched the federal landscape rapidly change, we have seen more intense and public immigration enforcement without adequate due process to protect individuals' rights and safety. While immigration enforcement is necessary, the enforcement tactics that we are currently witnessing are designed to intimidate all residents and cause unnecessary trauma to families and communities. This is particularly prevalent when state and local law enforcement agents enforce federal immigration laws directly.

Frederick County is proud to have a vibrant immigrant community that contributes to making our county diverse and inclusive. However, 287(g) agreements undermine our efforts to be inclusive and welcoming by eroding the publics' trust in our police force and our local government. These practices intimidate our residents and prevent them from trusting and interacting with our law enforcement, even as witnesses or potential victims of crime. We cannot have safe and secure communities if our residents do not feel safe around our local law enforcement.

SB 245 would ban these harmful practices and take an important first step in increasing community trust in law enforcement and government as a whole. During my legislative town hall, over 70% of speakers spoke on the need for a state-wide ban of 287(g) agreements. The community understands the negative impact these agreements have on their families and neighbors, and it is my responsibility to advocate for ending these agreements that are harming the community. A state-wide ban of 287(g) agreements will lead to a safer Frederick County, and a safer Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 245. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.

Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD

SB245-Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agre

Uploaded by: Jessica Morgan

Position: FAV

Bill No:	SB245
Title:	Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition
Committee:	Judicial Proceedings
Hearing:	January 22, 2026
Position:	FAVORABLE

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW's purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **SB245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition** is a priority on the **2026 MLAW Agenda** and we urge your support.

SB245 aims to sunset and prohibit 287(g) agreements in the State of Maryland, which are agreements between local law enforcement agencies and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that enhance collaboration in immigration enforcement activities. The recent ramping up of ICE activities in Maryland and across the country has demonstrated how this impacts women by separating families and causing stress and trauma. This legislation serves as just one counter to the expansion of ICE activities in our state.

Limiting the expansion of ICE activities in Maryland by prohibiting 287(g) collaboration with local law enforcement will serve as a counter to the federal government's deportation initiative. It will also serve to limit the further separation of families we are seeing as a result of these mass deportations.

For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of SB245.

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women
102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100 ▪ Towson, MD 21204 ▪ 443-519-1005 phone/fax
mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com ▪ www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org

MLAW 2026 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2026 Legislative Agenda*:

AAUW Anne Arundel County
AAUW Kensington-Rockville
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch
AAUW Maryland
AAUW-Garrett Branch
Baltimore County Commission for Women
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
Campaign for Eneshal Galloway at Large Candidacy
Crabs On The Shore
Jack and Jill of America Western Maryland Chapter
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Maryland NOW
Montgomery County MD Chapter, National Organization for Women
Postpartum Support International
Self-Reflections: Social-Emotional, Behavioral and Advocacy Services, LLC
Stella's Girls, Incorporated
SUB&S LLC
The Heart Nest
The Rest Of A Life (TROAL)
Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated, Patuxent River Chapter
Unnrooted Culture
Women's Commission for Baltimore City
Women's Equity Center and Action Network
Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.
Zonta Club of Annapolis

***As of 1/19/2026**

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women
102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100 ▪ Towson, MD 21204 ▪ 443-519-1005 phone/fax
mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com ▪ www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org

Support-SB 245- End 287(g) Agreements- UULM-MD - J
Uploaded by: Jim Caldiero
Position: FAV

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony IN FAVOR of SB 245
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

DATE: January 22, 2026
TO: Sen. William Smith, Chair, Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair,
and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate for Immigration,
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony IN FAVOR of **SB 245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition** that will end 287(g) Intergovernmental Service Agreements between the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local law enforcement agencies in Maryland

Like many of my fellow countrymen, I watched with sickening horror and dismay the recent murder in Minneapolis of Renee Good, a U.S. citizen exercising her constitutional right to observe the actions of federal ICE officers. At least the Minneapolis Police Officers were not complicit in her murder. In Maryland, however, although we have not yet experienced such ultimate violence on our streets, Marylanders have encountered masked agents as they roam our streets, kidnap our neighbors and throw them into unmarked vans. Every day, at least ten immigrant families are violently separated, leaving thousands of children without a parent and tearing apart the social fabric of communities across our state. The likelihood of a most severe violent event grows daily, particularly as some counties enter into or continue 287(g) agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Maryland's Attorney General Brown's guidance to law enforcement clearly acknowledges that the negotiated Memoranda of Agreements (MOA) between ICE and local law enforcement agencies contradict Maryland law enforcement practices. For example, ICE MOA's deputize local law enforcement officers to ascertain an individual's immigration status. However, Attorney General Brown's guidance notes that officers cannot inquire about immigration status unless relevant to a criminal investigation, are not required to share immigration/citizenship status with federal officials, and may not extend detentions to investigate immigration status. Note also that Howard County's Liberty Act also precludes not only law enforcement—but any county employee—from inquiring about citizenship status.

Moreover, participation in 287(g) agreements is disadvantageous and counterproductive to Maryland and its residents. The program is fraught with unconstitutional racial and ethnic profiling. A 2011 federal Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation, for example, determined that Arizona's Maricopa County Sheriff's Office had conducted routine sweeps in Latino neighborhoods and that

Latino drivers were nine times more likely to be stopped than non-Latino drivers. Similarly, another DOJ investigation in North Carolina found that Latino drivers were more than 10 times more likely to be stopped than non-Latino drivers. A 2022 study by Texas A&M University found that these discriminatory practices among agencies with 287(g) agreements spilled over into surrounding non-287(g) agreement jurisdictions. Additionally, the Migration Policy Institute found that half of all detainers were for people who had committed misdemeanors and traffic offenses while a University of North Carolina study found that officers under 287(g) agreements primarily targeted offenders who posed no threat to public safety or had no criminal records.

In addition to leading to illegal racial profiling and civil rights abuses, 287(g) agreements divert needed resources from traditional and effective local law enforcement functions. Local police are insufficiently trained to enforce complex federal immigration laws and local law enforcement participation leads to mistrust in communities and can turn minor interactions into life-altering situations including separation from families. Moreover, while ICE may cover the cost of four weeks of training, counties—local taxpayers—must pay the majority of costs, money that could be put to more effective crime fighting and community safety strategies against real criminals.

287(g) agreements are the embodiment of all that is contrary to my faith which I share with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists in Maryland, a faith that calls me to promote and affirm the inherent dignity of every person and to seek justice, equity and compassion for my fellow neighbors, including my immigrant neighbors, and contrary to my Unitarian Universalist moral values and the values that are shared by Marylanders in our Declaration of Rights.

I encourage you to vote IN FAVOR of SB 245.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sources:

Maryland AG Brown Press Release: Guidance to Law Enforcement Working with Federal Law Enforcement Agencies

https://oag.maryland.gov/FederalActionsResponse/Documents/pdfs/Memorandum_Law%20Enforcement_OCT%2025.pdf

https://marylandmatters.org/2025/10/15/attorney-general-limits-what-maryland-police-can-do-when-working-with-federal-authorities/

Trump Immigration Arrests Double in Maryland

https://www.thebanner.com/politics-power/national-politics/trump-ice-immigration-arrests-VUHC5BGFJRF6TOX7XKUZKFZZDI/

American Immigration Council, 287g Program Overview

https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/287g-program-immigration/

Texas A&M Study

"Sheriffs, State Troopers, and the Spillover Effects of Immigration Pol" by Huyen Pham and Pham Hoang Van;

https://scholarship.law.tamu.edu/facscholar/1555/?utm_source=scholarship.law.tamu.edu%2Ffacscholar%2F1555&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages

North Carolina Racial Profiling

https://www.npr.org/2014/08/15/340562910/n-c-sheriff-terry-johnson-on-trial-for-racial-profiling

MDGA26_SB 0245_JoShifrin__FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Jo Shifrin
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026
Re: SB 0245
Jo Shifrin
Bethesda, MD 20817

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL SB 0245

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Jo Shifrin

My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of Bethesda. I am submitting this testimony in support of Bill SB 0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

I am a retiree who moved to Bethesda to be near my grandchildren. My faith informs my belief about how people should treat one another. The insistence that we must behave with care, equity, and love toward the stranger is the command most repeated in the *Torah*. Our sacred texts demand that we use our own historical experiences of being outsiders in many countries into compassion for those who are experiencing that today. It is imperative for me –as a Jew and a Marylander – to make sure that those of us who were not born in our country are as safe as those of us who were.

Everyone, no matter where they were born, or what language they speak, should be able to live safely and without fear. But currently, ICE agents are assaulting, arresting, and disappearing immigrant Marylanders. They do this to terrorize communities and create divisions between us so that they can stay in power. We cannot, we must not, allow our state to participate in or enable these brutal assaults.

I truly believe that SB 0245 will benefit all Maryland residents by increasing public safety, promoting equity, and improving community and police relations. This bill will reduce community trauma, vastly improve community and police relations, and allow our police departments to deploy their officers to focus on actual crimes rather than spending time assisting ICE in terrorizing our neighbors.

I urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB0245.

Joanna Silver Testimony - SB245 - FAVORABLE.pdf
Uploaded by: Joanna Silver
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 245 - FAVORABLE

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, January 22, 2026

Joanna Silver
Silver Spring, MD

Dear Chair Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher,

My name is Joanna Silver. While I am testifying in my personal capacity, I have worked for over twenty years as a Federal Public Defender in the District of Maryland, representing people caught in both the criminal and immigration systems.

From that experience, I can tell you that ICE's current practices are cruel, disregard due process, and undermine, rather than enhance public safety.

For example, I represented an individual who returned to the US after being deported because he was threatened with violence in his home country. He was charged with the federal crime of illegal reentry and while that case was pending, an immigration judge granted him protection from future deportation under the Convention Against Torture.

This individual served his criminal sentence, was released, and was doing well under supervision. But after Trump took office, ICE arrested him again and deported him to a third country. Within weeks, that country sent him back to his home country; the very place he fled out of fear of persecution; the very place an immigration judge had ruled he could not safely return to.

While we expected a sharp increase in illegal reentry prosecutions - particularly for people with serious criminal histories, that increase never came. Instead, ICE has been focusing its resources on deporting, rather than prosecuting, as many people as they can get their hands on, regardless of what their immigration or criminal history is. For example, we saw our illegal reentry numbers drop when all of the ICE agents in our region occupied DC this Summer.

In keeping with ICE's myopic focus on deporting as many people as possible, I have seen judges release people in their federal criminal case to await trial under supervision in the community, only for ICE to deport them immediately, before they can go to trial. To be clear: we have one federal agency, the Department of Homeland Security, undermining the work of another federal agency, the Department of Justice; with deportation prioritized over accountability for alleged criminal conduct.

Finally, in recent months I have seen a number of individuals arrested on the street by ICE with no probable cause — sometimes simply for standing near someone else who was being targeted - what we call a "collateral" arrest. I have seen these cases because when those individuals

resisted their unlawful arrest, they were prosecuted federally, and the fact that their arrest was unlawful in the first place is not a defense to their charge.

These cases illustrate that ICE does not have the best interests of our local community in mind; they do not care about public safety, they care about terrorizing immigrants and meeting deportation quotas. These actions make our communities less safe and destroy trust in law enforcement. This state must protect its immigrant residents. I urge you to issue a favorable report on SB245.

SB 245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement A
Uploaded by: Joanne Antoine
Position: FAV

Common Cause
Maryland
Holding Power Accountable

121 Cathedral Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
443.906.0442
www.commoncause.org/md

January 22, 2026

Testimony on SB 245
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports SB 245, which would terminate active 287(g) agreements and prohibit local governments from entering into new agreements.

Common Cause Maryland believes that immigrants are integral to this nation's foundation and success, contributing to its standing as the longest-lasting and most successful democracy in history. Yet, by forcing immigrants into the shadows, the Trump administration threatens to undermine the multiracial democracy and safe, thriving neighborhoods we all deserve. Allowing local governments to deputize their law enforcement to act as agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) only helps the Administration accomplish its goals in Maryland.

Maryland has the responsibility—and the authority—to protect its residents from federal overreach. This responsibility is shared by all officials, including local governments, who neglect their obligations when they enter agreements with ICE. SB 245 affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law.

As a child of Haitian immigrants, I personally know the fears that exist in the community. Many, including my family members, entered the U.S. under temporary protective status or through President Biden’s CHNV program. They understand that we have long been targeted by ICE, and this administration's racist lies have put the community at greater risk. Communities like mine, which are largely represented on the Eastern Shore, must be protected.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

Immigrants have made this country the oldest and most successful democracy, and we should ensure that this continues by banning 287(g)s and holding local governments accountable if any attempt is made to undermine this prohibition.

We urge a favorable report.

Senate Bill 0245 favorable 1.20.2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Joanne Bates Crimmins
Position: FAV

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 Joanne Bates Crimmins and I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

My father was a WWII pilot who fought for democracy in our country and around the world. My mother, an immigrant, survived the Blitzkrieg. They would both be ashamed of what our country has turned into, and how our freedoms are being taken away from us. They instilled in me the power of community, the value of family, and to be a good citizen. They also taught me that we are a nation of immigrants. These are my values today. And the values of all of my friends, family, neighbors and colleagues.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims. When people are afraid to open their doors, afraid to go to work, worried about their friends, family, and anxious about their community, we have failed to keep everyone safe.

My friend's sister-in-law was here in the US legally. Seven months ago, she was detained, sent to three camps, which were not fit for any human. If this happened to my sister, I do not know what I would do. She leaves behind two children under the age of 6, a boy and a girl. These children are US citizens. Now, they are in the sole care of their father, the primary breadwinner. To ease their fears, he told the children that their mama was away, "working," and would come home soon. The oldest, a boy, said, "Dad, when Mama comes back home, please tell her she cannot go to work anymore." We all know that she is not coming back.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

We want Frederick to be a safe, thriving, and open community. We want businesses to succeed, for the arts to flourish, for our children to feel safe going to school.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joanne Bates Crimmins, military daughter, Frederick resident

SB245-John Ford-favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: John Ford
Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted in collaboration with Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore and CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of District 46 in Baltimore City. Two of my closest friends live only a few miles away from the site of Renee Good's murder and have talked with us about the terror they live under, and we know Baltimore City is on the shortlist for federal invasion next. ICE and its sister agencies that have formed President Trump's modern Brown Shirts have no place in our democratic society's law enforcement community and need to be disbanded and prosecuted as vigilante lynch mobs. **I am testifying in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

The End 287g Agreements Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in eight Maryland counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including: increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resulting "chilling effect" in Hispanic communities.[1] Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program"[2] Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who "posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%."[3]

The last Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite urban areas citing costs and the impact on community relations. DHS removed expiration dates and other guardrails that provided any attempted reforms and changes to the agreements under the Obama administration[4]. The current administration has continued to remove restrictions and oversight of ICE, leading inevitably to the horrifying murder of Renee Good in Minneapolis. While we've yet to see similar violence in Maryland, every additional encounter between Marylanders and ICE increases the chance of such an incident. Our local law enforcement should not be initiating these encounters.

Maryland's large immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing $8 billion in federal and $4 billion in state taxes, providing $2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power[5]. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.

Sincerely,
John Preston Ford
529 S East Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224

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[1] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018
[2] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1
[3] The 287(g) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council
[4] License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); April, 26, 2022
[5] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council
[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

Senate Bill 245 One Pasadena 2026.pdf
Uploaded by: John Jasen
Position: FAV

Senate Bill 245
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Favorable Report

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

We, the Steering Committee of the neighborhood group One Pasadena: Building a Safe and Inclusive Community, urge you to give Senate Bill 245 a favorable report.

287(g) agreements give law enforcement free reign to discriminate against people based on perceived or actual race; participating law enforcement even receive federal funds to do so. 287(g) agreements are also known to decrease the instance of witnesses to crimes coming forward, due to fear for themselves or undocumented family members. No one should have to worry about which Maryland counties they can safely visit, or even simply drive through. As an anti-racist organization, we implore you to give Senate Bill 245 a favorable report. Thank you.

Sincerely,
The One Pasadena Steering Committee
Pasadena, MD

SB245 Testimony - John A Spillane.pdf
Uploaded by: John Spillane
Position: FAV

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 John A Spillane, and I am a resident of Prince George's County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

Prince George's County currently has no 287(g) agreement, yet even so, the level of immigration agencies activity is disruptive. Let me tell you, this in no remote concern. A corner four blocks from my house has been the scene of an ICE kidnapping, not once but twice. Today I hear that one individual that was snatched from that corner several months ago has finally been released — he's had legal status all along. If this happens with no 287(g) agreement, I don't want to see what it's like with one.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses —even when they are victims. When speaking with local business owners I have heard firsthand of these fears.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John A Spillane

SB0245_JonathanLevitas_FAV (5).pdf
Uploaded by: Jonathan Levitas
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: 1/22/26

Jonathan Levitas
Baltimore, MD 21230

TESTIMONY ON SB#0245 - FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Jonathan Levitas

My name is Jonathan Levitas. I am a resident of District 46, and am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0245 (Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition).

I am a resident of Riverside, in Baltimore, Maryland, and a member of Beth Am Congregation, the Riverside Neighborhood Association, and, lately, several mutual aid organizations. I write on my own behalf, and on behalf of my family.

I support this bill because I come from a family of immigrants, and this country welcomed us. Because so many in my family suffered horrors in their countries of origin, perpetrated by governments and government-supported vigilantes. Because I do not want this to happen to anyone, anywhere, and certainly not in my country. Because it *is* happening here, in my country.

My family came to the United States in 1986, when I was two years old. My father was already an American citizen, having immigrated earlier in his life, but my mother did not become a citizen until October 29, 2015. Had she not done so, I could not safely write this testimony. This is what Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter called "a chilling effect." I never thought a time would come when I would have to make such considerations, but here we are.

What our federal government is doing is evil. Every day there are more stories in my own communities, and in others all over this country, of people kidnapped, citizens and non-citizens alike, mothers, fathers, children, all targets. Stories of violent attacks on peaceful protesters. Stories of murder.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote: "in a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible." We must take responsibility for what our federal government is doing. If we cannot at this moment stop it, we can at least stop authorities within our state from collaborating. That is why I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.

Goldberg SB0245 testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Joshua Goldberg
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: 1/22/2026

Joshua Goldberg
Baltimore, MD 21211

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: Joshua Goldberg

My name is Joshua Goldberg. I am a resident of District 40. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I want to thank Senators Smith, Ferguson, and Lewis Young for sponsoring this bill. I am an active member of the Beth Am Synagogue community, and the Jewish values of protecting the vulnerable and pursuing justice guide my support for SB0245. Like many others today, my great-grandmother fled violence to seek safety in this country, and the stories passed down about how she cared for her neighbors have shaped my belief that every person deserves security, dignity, and due process—regardless of immigration status.

I want to speak especially about the importance of SB0245 for safety and accountability. I know concrete stories of people in my community who have said, *"I wanted to call the police, but I am afraid of being deported."* These include cases of domestic violence and a car jacking. Of course, this fear extends to any crime where an immigrant neighbor is a victim or witness. *People who commit crimes also know* the added power they have when their victims are afraid to seek help, and this emboldens theft, violence, and intimidation. It creates fear that permeates whole neighborhoods — that I feel myself — regardless of how many generations back our families found this country..

SB0245 will go a long way toward ensuring that our neighbors can safely seek help from the police, rather than allowing crime to grow in the shadows outside law enforcement's view. When people know that reporting a crime will not lead to deportation, they are far more likely to seek protection, cooperate with investigations, and help keep their communities safe.

For these reasons, **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.**

original testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Judith Fleitman
Position: FAV

BILL# SB0245_Judith Fleitman_FAV

I am a new resident of Maryland (Laurel) who has always been committed to Immigrant Justice. My values were formed when was in 4th Grade, when I read a book called "All-of-a-Kind Family", which, in essence, was a memoir written about the author and her 4 sisters growing up on the Lower East Side at the turn of the 20th century. They were not a "one-of-a-kind" family, but one of many having parallel experiences as immigrants adjusting to a new way of life, balancing assimilation with tradition, and facing challenges of poverty and xenophobia as they built lives in their new country. Though their experiences, 2 generations later, were not mine, I still could imagine myself in their place, their immigrant struggle being part of my inheritance.

No matter how we came to this country, at some point that "All-of-Kind Family" is the vast majority of us (whether post-immigration or post-emancipation).

Our contemporary immigrant neighbors perpetuate the content of this story, but with unprecedented challenges. They fit into the title "All-of-a-Kind Family", but far beyond adjustment and biases, they face a monstrous threat from the government -- demonized and targeted by current national policy -- their immigrant hopes and dreams have turned into devastation and fear as the iron hand of our nation's government threatens them with detention and deportation. As I envisioned myself in a turn-of-the-century immigrant experience, I cannot turn away from imagining myself in the current immigrant circumstance.

That is why I am imploring you to support the bill before you now, eliminating 287(G) agreements throughout Maryland. For all our sakes, my state government must do all that is possible to deter complicity with ICE. No resident of our state should be afraid to go to a supermarket, seek medical attention, seek police help, or send their kids to school because of the all-too-real threat of detainment or deportation. Especially in the wake of tragedy and brutality in Minneapolis, whatever restrictions to limiting ICE's power in our state *can* be implemented, *should* be implemented.

Thank you for your continued service to our state. I count on you, as my elected official, to vote to 0limit ICE's reach in Maryland by voting to enact Senate Bill 0245.

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To the MD General Assembly – Submitted by Judith T

Uploaded by: Judith Tanner

Position: FAV

To the MD General Assembly – Submitted by Judith Tanner 1-20-2026
I am strongly in favor of passing SB0245 Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

There are the standard reasons for passing this… this bill will make us all safer since it will enable everyone to report crime without being fearful that they or someone in their household will be dragged away by ICE, it will make all people less afraid to call for help for themselves and others for medical emergencies and situations of abuse and it will make people more willing to be witnesses for crimes they may see. Studies have shown that all of this is true.

But the foremost reason that you should pass SB0245 is tied to the fact that we have a Federal Gov't that is blatantly racist and corrupt beyond description in just about everything it does and we must stand against hate and for love of neighbor, for justice and democracy. The historical backdrop for ICE terrorism is the unfair immigration system that has existed for many years where all parties refused to pass legislation to deal equitably with immigrants… particularly those who are now deemed "illegal." What is fair about turning a blind eye to those who came without "proper" work papers **but** have done and continue to do much of the hard work that the country needs and wants… those who work on farms, slaughter houses, cleaning hotels and hospitals, being our personal house cleaners and nannies, roofers, construction workers just to name a very few. They pay taxes, and contribute to SS and Medicare and are not eligible for these benefits, they get no health insurance, no retirement benefits and for years everyone concerned has colluded to "not rock the boat"… employers often take advantage of such workers and again we pretend this is not happening. These workers should have been welcomed into the US legally to begin with and offered a "path to citizenship" after a certain number of productive years of living here. Why is that not been the case? I think racism and a lack of will in both parties to fight for fair immigration legislation have been the main two impediments, but "at the end of the day" this is tied to a lack of moral responsibility. Is it really okay to take advantage of people in this way… to have a class of people who do the work we want done, to pretend they are treated fairly when they are not and now to allow ICE to violently pull their families apart, still refusing to see the immorality of our behavior?

ICE offers huge bonuses to get people to sign up. They do not do serious background checks, they recruit agents from places and organizations that promote force and gun use, they let agents use masks and clearly want agents to be those who hold a positive view of coercion through violence ("tough guy" mentality). The Justice Department supports ICE beating people, smashing vehicle windows, abusing protestors, zip-tying children, shooting and killing people. They go house to house pulling people out, to schools, churches, immigration courts where people are petitioning to stay here legally, taking folks who have lived here for many years without any criminal record and who contribute greatly to our state and country, separating families, sending various people back to countries that are quite dangerous for them and detaining many in unsafe camps where death rates are going up.

SB0245 will make us all safer in Maryland but the underlying reason why you should vote for this bill is to keep your integrity as a person, as one who stands up for what is right in terms of protecting innocent people from harm by ICE agents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Favorable SB0245_Judy McClure.pdf
Uploaded by: Judy McClure
Position: FAV

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 Judy McClure, and I am a resident of Salisbury, **Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Here in Salisbury we have unfortunately seen first-hand how ICE activities are devastating families and members of our community. I have personally witnessed ICE activity at a construction site that is right across from where I live. Beautiful new townhomes are being built here to supply our area with much needed housing, and we have enjoyed watching many hard-working members of the Hispanic community contribute in this effort. More than once, ICE has tainted that beautiful site with their brutal pursuit of these hard-working, non-criminal residents who are only guilty of wanting a better life. Support of local law enforcement in these efforts would send a terrible message to our immigrants and make them feel even further isolated.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Many local businesses, such as Perdue, have encouraged immigrants to become part of their workforce, and churches have aided in the effort to help them make a home here. Having our local law enforcement then undermine these humanitarian actions would send devastating ripples across our community.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Support-SB 245- End 287(g) Agreements-Judy Shaffer

Uploaded by: Judy Shaffer

Position: FAV

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 Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Judy Shaffer, and I am a a resident of Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

My values and faith compel me to stand up to the abuse of power when people are removed from our streets with no recourse to the system of justice that is the foundation of our nation.

The lack of respect for individuals and inhumane, violent treatment I have seen on the news is abhorrent and against all I believe in.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB0245_JulieSimon_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Julie Simon
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: Thursday, January 22 at 1:00 pm
Julie Simon
Towson, Maryland, 21286

TESTIMONY ON SB0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Julie Simon

My name is Julie Simon. I am a resident of District 43B. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB-0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

For the last several years I have been the team lead for the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Welcome Circle. During that time we have lived our Jewish and civic values, welcoming two Afghan families to Baltimore County and getting to know others from the over 35 Afghan families that live in Cockeysville. Many of these individuals were actively involved in supporting U.S. efforts in Afghanistan and came as part of Operation Allies Welcome. Others have come seeking refugee status and asylum, fleeing religious persecution, political oppression and gender-based violence. All are working, paying taxes, starting new businesses, going to school and otherwise contributing to the vibrancy of our community.

In recent months, the Trump administration has launched a racist, xenophobic and deadly campaign against immigrants across the United States, including attacking parents and families at schools and at work, deploying military equipment to terrorize communities, racially profiling U.S. citizens and shooting people. It is against this backdrop that I am writing to express my support for a favorable report on SB0245, which will bar local law enforcement agencies from entering into 287(g) agreements to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement in Maryland. As we have seen in the eight Maryland counties that currently have 287(g) agreement with ICE, as well as in cities around the county, 287(g) agreements increase racial profiling of Black and brown people in our communities, regardless of their immigration status, and facilitate the horrific violence against local communities, as is happening currently in Minneapolis and elsewhere.

As Jews, we have a long history of welcoming immigrants and newcomers to our community. Many of us, and our ancestors, fled persecution and settled in new places. Maryland needs to

be a place where everyone is welcome and new arrivals don't live in fear. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.**

MD Senate Judicial Proceedings Testimony SB#0245.p
Uploaded by: Julie Solomon
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: January 20, 2026
Julie Robin Solomon
Baltimore, MD 21231
Your City/Town, State Zip

TESTIMONY ON SB# SB0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Full Bill Name: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Julie Robin Solomon

My name is Julie Robin Solomon. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0245, Public Safety–Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

I am a 39-year-resident of Baltimore City and a member of JUFJ, DSA, and the ACLU. I depend daily on our immigrant community, which every day provides vital services in our hospitals, nursing homes, schools, stores, government offices, and construction sites. As the grandchild of immigrants, I know that our country, state and nation have been erected on the backs of their hard work. It is essential that we protect them and keep our communities whole. After the dreadful murder of Rene Good in Minneapolis, we all know that each and every one of us is endangered by poorly trained, lawless ICE and Border Patrol actions.

But it is not just ordinary citizens who are in danger. Our police and sheriff departments are vulnerable as well. If we allow them to enter into 287g agreements we risk exposing them to the fascistic culture of undertrained federal agents, many of whom have very little to no experience policing civilians. ICE and other federal agents have needlessly, killed, wounded, and manhandled innocent civilians. They are heedless of the civil rights of community members and ignore due process. We do not want our local police forces and sheriff offices absorbing this immoral, illegal, fascistic culture and imitating it! We want to separate our departments' operations from those of ICE–as far as possible. In Baltimore City, in particular, we have, and continue, to work hard to reform the conduct of our police. We do not want anything to stymie that progress!

I want to thank all of the members of this committee for its hard work in keeping **all** Marylanders safe. In this difficult time we the citizens and our elected representatives must stand tall and firm against the dangers coming our way from the federal government. I thus respectfully urge you to vote in favor of this bill to outlaw 287g agreements. We will all sleep a little more soundly once this is accomplished.

Favorable - SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Julio Miguel Alumbro
Position: FAV

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 Julio Miguel Alumbro, and I am a resident of Middle River of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

My family has immigrated from the Philippines to secure a life in Baltimore for nearly twenty years, and are privileged to have acquired citizenship just a few years ago. We care deeply about the just processes immigrants undergo in their stay in the United States and the prevention of any threats to fair opportunity.

It is why I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Recent events have displayed increased aggression on public safety by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The cooperation of ICE and law enforcement increases the threat to families like mine to live outside with dignity.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. Inhibiting policies like 287(g) ensures fair protections by maintaining the function of local law enforcement separate from Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julio Miguel Alumbro

SB 245_MD Center on Economic Policy_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Kali Schumitz
Position: FAV

MDCEP
MARYLAND CENTER ON ECONOMIC POLICY

JANUARY 22, 2026

Local Law Enforcement Must Focus on Keeping Marylanders Safe, Not on Immigration Enforcement

Position Statement Supporting Senate Bill 245

Given Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

The safety of all Marylanders is the key function of state and local law enforcement agencies and to ensure this, community trust and cooperation is vital. When local law enforcement agents collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), it erodes trust within immigrant communities, discouraging individuals from reporting crimes, seeking assistance and cooperating with law enforcement. This creates a chilling effect that makes our communities less safe for everyone. **The Maryland Center on Economic Policy supports Senate Bill 245** because it would prohibit local agencies from entering into federal immigration enforcement agreements and terminate existing ones, thereby ensuring that state and local resources are used for public safety priorities rather than being diverted to enforce federal immigration policies.

A key provision of SB 245 is that prohibits local law enforcement from engaging in federal immigration enforcement activities. This is crucial to maintaining public safety in our communities. When local police act as enforcers of federal immigration laws, it erodes the relationship between law enforcement and immigrant communities. Fear of deportation or detention makes members of the community hesitant to report crimes, cooperate with investigations, or seek assistance during emergencies. This bill will help ensure that immigrants, regardless of status, can safely engage with local law enforcement without fear of being turned over to federal authorities, which is vital to fostering trust and cooperation. This bill provides a much-needed safeguard for immigrant families ensuring that individuals are not subject to racial profiling, unnecessary detention or deportation simply due to their immigration status.

At its core, SB 245 is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

Marylanders benefit from state policies that make our state a welcoming place for immigrants. Just over 1 million immigrants reside in Maryland, working sectors across our state's economy[1]. About 36 percent of Main Street business owners in Maryland are immigrants, operating storefront shops that help keep downtown areas vibrant. About 21 percent of Maryland's workers are immigrants including 33 percent of child care workers, 29 percent of registered nurses and 27 percent of software developers. Immigrant workers and business owners generate $85 billion of economic output in Maryland. In fact, when immigrants move to Maryland the

economy grows and this doesn't mean fewer jobs, it means more jobs, more consumers, more workers and more business owners.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

The Maryland Center on Economic Policy urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 245.

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[1] Immigration Research Institute, Immigrants Are A Vital Part of Maryland's Future.

Favorable SB 0245 K Christof.pdf
Uploaded by: karen Christof
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill—Favorable

SB 245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

My name is Karen Christof and I am a resident of Frederick, MD. I am writing in support of SB 245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

Frederick County has participated far too long in the 287 (g) program and it is time for it to end. It has led to racial profiling in our county and fear in the hispanic community in particular.

287g does not make us safer; the statistics do not bear this out. This program creates fear in our community; fear of local law enforcement members who are supposed to be there to serve & protect all of us but who are now acting as agents of detention & deportation. Community members are afraid to report crimes & domestic violence for fear of being swept up in the illegal & unconstitutional actions of ICE agents. In MD, over 60% of the nearly 2000 arrested didn't have criminal charges, let alone convictions; most people are detained for minor traffic violations. Under 287g, a traffic stop becomes a deportation trap.

All costs of **287g detentions fall on the local jurisdiction & State's taxpayers**. Initial & ongoing training of local deputies by ICE diverts local resources away from protecting the community and at tax payers expense.

Participation in **287g makes Frederick County complicit** with the cruel and unconstitutional actions of ICE that we're witnessing every day across the country. A broken immigration system cannot be fixed by unconstitutional & cruel enforcement of a complex system.

And finally, I ask that you support all the residents of Frederick County and all of Maryland by using our resources to support our local law enforcement needs, rather than do the work of ICE. With a budget of nearly $75 BILLION, we should NOT be using local resources to supplement ICE and by doing so, making

Frederick County complicit in the cruel and illegal actions now underway across this country.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

NASW Maryland - 2026 SB 245 FAV - Prohibition on I
Uploaded by: Karessa Proctor
Position: FAV

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

Re: Senate Bill 245 – Judicial Proceedings – Public Safety Immigration Enforcement Agreements Prohibition

POSITION: SUPPORT

The National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD), representing over 2,600 social workers across the State of Maryland, supports Senate Bill 245, legislation that would prohibit state and local entities from entering into public safety immigration enforcement agreements.

NASW-MD's support for Senate Bill 245 is grounded in the NASW Code of Ethics, which establishes the profession's core values and ethical obligations to promote human well-being and advance social justice. This legislation aligns directly with the ethical principles of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, and the importance of human relationships.

Immigration enforcement agreements between local governments and federal authorities have been shown to undermine trust between immigrant communities and public institutions. When residents fear that interactions with local government agencies, law enforcement, courts, schools, or health providers may lead to immigration consequences, they are less likely to seek services, report crimes, or participate in community life. This erosion of trust negatively impacts public safety, community health, and access to essential services for entire communities.

The NASW Code of Ethics calls on social workers to challenge social injustice and advocate for policies that reduce harm to vulnerable and marginalized populations. Immigrant individuals and families are particularly impacted by policies that blur the line between local public safety functions and federal immigration enforcement. Senate Bill 245 advances social justice by preventing policies that disproportionately harm these communities and create barriers to safety and stability.

Further, the ethical principle of Dignity and Worth of the Person affirms that all individuals deserve respect, protection, and the ability to live without fear. By prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements, Senate Bill 245 helps ensure that Maryland residents can access public spaces, services, employment, education, and places of worship without fear of enforcement actions unrelated to public safety.

(over)

The Importance of Human Relationships, another core ethical principle, underscores the necessity of trust between residents and the systems designed to serve them. Social workers rely on this trust to effectively provide services and support families and communities. Senate Bill 245 promotes policies that preserve and strengthen these essential relationships.

For these reasons, NASW-MD urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 245 and advance the legislation to the full Senate. This bill reflects Maryland's commitment to ethical governance, community well-being, and policies that prioritize safety, dignity, and inclusion for all residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip A. Pratt, BSW, MSW, ACSW
President, Board of Directors
National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter

Karessa Proctor, BSW, MSW
Executive Director: Maryland, Metro DC, Delaware Chapters
National Association of Social Workers

SB 245 JPR D4CC fav.pdf
Uploaded by: Kate Sugarman
Position: FAV

Testimony on SB 1 - Favorable

SB 245- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

Doctors for Camp Closure Maryland chapter offers favorable testimony in support of SB-245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Doctors for Camp Closure is a group who advocates for humane and just treatment for immigrants and is very opposed to ICE detention for our immigrant community.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. The Maryland Values Act 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).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts 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. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

We see how ICE detention and ICE raids have a negative impact on the health of our immigrant patients. ICE raids make our patients so fearful that they neglect their health out of fear of deportation. Our mission is to promote good mental and physical health for our patients, while ICE raids have a damaging effect on their health.

I just witnessed 3 young children lose their parents to an ICE raid in Maryland. These children are severely suffering emotionally, physically and financially. 287(g) has no place in the state of Maryland.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we support a clean bill which will end 287(g) agreements in Maryland, and not to create or mandate new forms of collaboration with ICE. Local jurisdictions already have the discretion to engage with ICE if they choose; ending 287(g) agreements does not limit that existing authority. We strongly support a clean bill that simply terminates 287(g) agreements in Maryland. This is what will bring Maryland closer to our values.

Doctors for Camp Closure Maryland urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 245.

Kate Sugarman, MD

Doctors for Camp Closure co leader

Potomac MD

Testimony in Support of SB245_Blaha_SURJ.pdf
Uploaded by: Katherine Blaha
Position: FAV

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

SURJ BALTIMORE

Showing Up for Racial Justice

Dear the Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am submitting this testimony as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore, a group of Marylanders working to mobilize white people in a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland, an immigration advocacy and assistance organization based in Maryland. I am testifying in **support** of **SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

The End 287g Agreements Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in eight Maryland counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations. The harm caused by these agreements often disproportionately impact Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for protecting and restoring public trust in law enforcement.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resultant "chilling effect" in Latinx communities.[1] Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program"[2] These agreements steer local law enforcement to focus on people with minor criminal histories, rather than using resources to prioritize and

[1] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018

[2] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1

investigate violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that **287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who "posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record.** Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%."[3]

The last Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite urban areas citing costs and the impact on community relations. DHS removed expiration dates and other guardrails that provided any attempted reforms and changes to the agreements under the Obama administration[4]. The current administration has continued to remove restrictions and oversight of ICE, leading inevitably to the horrifying murder of Renee Good in Minneapolis. While we've yet to see similar violence in Maryland, every additional encounter between Marylanders and ICE increases the chance of such an incident. Our local law enforcement should not be initiating these encounters.

Maryland's large immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing $8 billion in federal and $4 billion in state taxes, providing $2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power[5]. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.

Sincerely,
Dr. Katherine Blaha
Baltimore, MD
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore

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[3] The 287(g) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council

[4] License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); April, 26, 2022

[5] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council

[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

Maryland Senate Bill 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Katherine Hartig
Position: FAV

January 20, 2025

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

I do not think that it is wise to work with untrained federal government employees who hide their faces, are allowed to carry and use firearms without restriction, and abuse people unnecessarily in our community.

Law enforcement must not do that, is responsible for documenting its response, and is responsible for identifying themselves.

Families are being hurt that Law Enforcement is commissioned to Serve and Protect. Please do not support kidnapping, removal, disappearances of people in your community.

Please allow Law Enforcement to serve and protect those in our community. Continue to improve our police force to serve the greater good.

This is a time of great injustice. Please, do not let Maryland be a part of it.

Thank you,

Katherine T. Hartig
22 Bens Court
Parkton, Maryland 21120

FAVORABLE SB0245_Katherine Vaughn.pdf
Uploaded by: Katherine Vaughn
Position: FAV

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 **Katherine Vaughn,** and I am a resident of **Catonsville, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I am a concerned citizen who loves my friends, neighbors, and community members and wants them to live in peace and security, especially those who are immigrants and people of color.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I know people who are immigrants who are afraid to be out in public simply because they could be stopped and kidnapped by ICE agents. This includes both undocumented and naturalized citizens whose appearance alone could lead to unjust, unwarranted, or frankly illegal kidnapping, detention, and even deportation by ICE. Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Prohibiting 287(g) will protect local resources from being co-opted by federal ICE agents and operations, and slow down or prevent the excessive actions ICE has been taking around the country. We need to keep our families and neighborhoods intact and thriving, not living in fear.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

FAVORABLE SB0245_KathleenClair.pdf
Uploaded by: Kathleen Clair
Position: FAV

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 Kathleen Clair and I am a resident of Columbia, Maryland. I submit this testimony in my personal capacity only. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I grew up in Columbia, Maryland and now am raising my two children here. I also lived in Montgomery County, Maryland for 14 years. I care deeply about the safety of my community. I also care deeply about living in a free society and, like so many Marylanders, am seriously concerned with the increased presence of federal immigration agents in communities across our state and throughout the country, and with the tactics they employ.

Immigrants and their family members are our neighbors, our friends, our children's classmates and confidants. The same people who have graciously opened their homes and hearts to my family are now in danger. The spaces in which my children have shared laughter and celebrated birthdays are now among the targets for roving gangs of armed federal agents who shove, shoot, and grab first, and ask questions later.

As has been well documented, the federal government is currently engaging in overly broad and abusive sweeps, brazenly violating the law and common decency. But as an attorney who in my prior job did just a small amount of immigration related pro bono work, I know for a fact that abusive tactics in immigration raids are nothing new.

Maryland cannot control the federal government's direction for immigration enforcement, but it does not need to go out of its way to help. Furthermore, immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims. These agreements also divert local resources away from protecting communities. If we care about real crime and public safety, we will keep federal immigration law (often civil law) enforcement functions separate from local and state criminal investigations and enforcement.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Clair

Written Testimony - SB0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Kathryn Little
Position: FAV

Written Testimony
Bill: **SB0245**
Position: **FAV**

January 20, 2026

As a concerned Maryland citizen, I am in favor of SB0245 (Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition) and I urge your support.

The contents of this bill were taken out of the Maryland Values Act at the eleventh hour last year's legislative session. In the year since, we have seen extreme increases in activity by ICE, including the use of unwarranted violence. They are doing their job and then some. They do not need the assistance of state/local law enforcement to expand their reach any further, and neither should Maryland taxpayers be paying for their state or local law enforcement to assist federal level work. Such immigration enforcement agreements are a waste of Marylanders' resources and a danger to our communities. I urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to return a favorable report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Little
881 W Lombard St
Baltimore, MD 21201

Testimony on Senate Bill SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Kathryn Parke
Position: FAV

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 Kathryn Parke, and I am a resident of Baltimore City and a business owner in Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

As a long-time resident of Baltimore City, I have seen how public mistrust of law enforcement creates problems for all of us in our communities. My observation is that in recent years this has been getting to less of a problem and I feel hopeful about improvements in safety. Many of us are working to build cooperation and communication in our various neighborhoods.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

In my previous work as a therapist in Baltimore City community mental health clinics, I have seen how fears around immigration status prevent people from accessing needed services, causing very vulnerable people to go without basic care and safety. Residents of our communities deserve to be able to access needed resources without fear of being terrorized or exploited because of their status. This is just basic decency.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

It seems to me that our local law enforcement are already doing important jobs to their communities and should not be enjoined to assist in the unnecessary and dangerous activities being committed by ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathryn Parke, Baltimore Maryland

KathrynWenner_SB245_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Kathryn Wenner
Position: FAV

January 20, 2025

Kathryn S. Wenner
Kensington, Maryland 20895

TESTIMONY ON SB245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Kathryn S. Wenner

My name is Kathryn Wenner. I am a resident of District 18. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I am a retired journalist with decades of involvement in coverage from the world's most dire zones of conflict and human suffering. My awareness of the safety and cleanliness and security of my life as an American began as a 7-year-old in impoverished South Korea, where I lived a few thousand yards from children my own age in tar-paper shacks. When Vietnamese who escaped after the fall of Saigon began arriving in large numbers in my hometown of Arlington, Virginia, I rejoiced. Years later, when the apartment buildings on my Arlington street filled with people who had fled the violence in El Salvador and Guatemala, I felt joy every day that my country was able to offer them a place to live in dignity and safety.

And now I feel again the pride that comes from living in a state where my elected officials have the opportunity to do what must be done in the name of humanity and our American values to protect and defend our immigrant neighbors and friends, by enacting SB245.

I know what it feels like to fear law enforcement and armed soldiers on the streets, because I spent time in Myanmar, where you were careful to stay in line lest you be thrown in prison. Until now in this country, I have never feared seeking help and protection from local law enforcement officers. If SB245 does not pass, I will no longer be able to say that. Federal officials are already seeking to criminalize the actions of American citizens like myself who oppose the actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers on our streets.

As we witness and experience immigrant members of our communities coming under attack by federal officials, we are counting on the Maryland State Legislature to act swiftly in response.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB245.

SOMOS Testimony Template SB0245 - Keily Pacheco.pd

Uploaded by: Keily Pacheco Hernandez

Position: FAV

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition / SB0245

Official Testimony

Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Keily Pacheco, and I'm a 11th grade student at Baltimore City College and a member of Students Organizing a Multicultural Open Society (SOMOS). I support SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

This bill will protect Maryland residents by prohibiting local law enforcement agencies from entering into agreements with federal immigration authorities to enforce immigration laws. It ensures that local police focus on community safety rather than federal immigration enforcement, which helps build trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement.

I believe that passing of this bill is essential because everyone deserves to feel safe in their own neighborhoods, regardless of their immigration status. When local police are involved in immigration enforcement, many families (including my friends and classmates) are afraid to report crimes or find help when they really need it. This fear makes our community less safe for everyone.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on **SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.**

Sincerely,

Keily Pacheco
Students Organizing a Multicultural Open Society (SOMOS)
District #215
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/members/district

Keily.PachecoHernandez2027@BaltimoreCityCollege.US
somoslegalteam@gmail.com

SB245 Favorable Testimony from Kelly Hodge-William

Uploaded by: Kelly Hodge-Williams

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

January 20, 2026

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

My name is Kelly Hodge-Williams and I am a resident of Baltimore City Maryland. I am writing in strong support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

At a time when Maryland faces competing priorities and limited local resources, the 287(g) program is a wasteful and dangerous misuse of taxpayer funds. Instead of improving safety, it undermines trust, encourages racial profiling, and diverts attention away from addressing serious crimes. Evidence consistently shows that 287(g) programs disproportionately target Black, Latino, and immigrant communities — often detaining, and physically harming, individuals with little to no criminal history. These programs fracture families, disrupt local policing priorities, and foster fear that ripples throughout our schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Participation in 287(g) not only creates inefficiency but also fuels constitutional violations and civil rights abuses. Investigations across the country have documented racially disparate treatment and unlawful detention under these agreements. When local law enforcement acts as an extension of federal immigration officers, the result is predictable: widespread fear and distrust. Victims and witnesses of crimes—especially in immigrant communities—become afraid to come forward, report crimes or cooperate with police, making us *all* less safe.

For all these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Hodge-Williams
5905 Charlesmead Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21212

SB0245_Ken Lemberg_Favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Kenneth Lemberg
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: January 22, 2026

Kenneth Lemberg
Silver Spring, MD 20910

TESTIMONY ON SB# 0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Kenneth Lemberg

My name is Kenneth Lemberg. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB# 0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

First, I want to thank Chair Will Smith for being a bill sponsor of the above cited legislation. I support and care about this bill because I do not want my neighbors to be treated unreasonably and dangerously by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local/county law enforcement that could choose to cooperate with ICE. In my apartment complex, Summit Hills on 16th Street in Silver Spring, a large percentage of my apartment neighbors are from other countries - many were born outside the United States. I would hate to see ICE and/or local law enforcement going after my neighbors - that would make the community most unstable and dangerous. I and likely other American citizen neighbors would feel compelled to do something and that could further escalate tensions. Our county gains from diversity and the presence of various cultures and ethnicities; we must not let ICE and local law enforcement to be able to enter into agreements that would likely damage our strength in diversity. For example, because of our diversity, we have a fair number of ethnic restaurants and shops at our convenience, in the neighborhood.

As you might imagine, I am not alone in these concerns and desired emphasis on diversity. I am a member of the Tifereth Israel congregation, right down the road on 16th Street. We have a Social Action Committee that is very concerned about the ongoing immigration crackdown. Other neighbors in the region have expressed their concerns and fears. We simply must not allow local law enforcement resources to be used to round up our foreign-born and native-born neighbors, thereby creating fear and havoc.

Once again, the bill in question astutely prohibits local police from cooperating with ICE in turning over our neighborhood residents. It represents a humane way to push back on what we are witnessing in different parts of the country. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB# 0245.**

SB245 Support (Written).pdf
Uploaded by: Kenzie Funk
Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 245: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Position: Support
January 22, 2026

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

At Strong Schools Maryland, we work to support the faithful implementation and full funding of the promises legislated through the landmark Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The Blueprint envisions a public education system where all students can feel safe and supported to learn and thrive in their school community. It was designed to specifically address systemic inequities that disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities. The students and families promised this sense of safety and support include our immigrant communities. As a result, **Strong Schools Maryland offers favorable testimony in support of SB 245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.**

At its core, SB 245 is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This legislation recognizes that state and local governments should not be pulled into federal immigration enforcement through agreements such as 287(g). These agreements undermine public trust, divert state and local resources, and tear families, school communities apart. SB245 affirms that Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting harmful immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

These immigration enforcement agreements deeply undermine the safety, stability, and well being of students and the broader school community. When there is increased federal immigration enforcement activity, there are documented declines in school attendance as families, fearing separation, withdraw their children. Moving reactively due to systemic marginalization disrupts student education and often leads to significant negative impacts to academic outcomes.[1] Beyond academic threats, the pervasive threat of federal immigration enforcement and activity contributes to toxic stress in children which increases risk of depression, anxiety, PTSD, and severe psychological distress.[2]

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. As a result, the burden of these negative impacts overwhelmingly fall on Black and Brown children in our public schools. Further, programs such as 287(g) promote disengagement from essential social supports, limiting critical resources for families and weakening community trust.[3]

1 How Strict Immigration Enforcement Harms School Children
2 American Immigration Council
3 Immigration Enforcement and US Schools: What Could Happen and What Education Leaders Can Do

When families are afraid to report crimes, seek help, or engage with public institutions, public safety suffers.

These enforcement practices directly contradict the mission of our public school system. The Blueprint is built on the very foundation of active community engagement and accountability to governing systems in order to ensure that all students are equitably served, including and prioritizing supports and protections for immigrant and undocumented students. It is interwoven into every pillar of the Blueprint. Without preserving the protections for immigrant communities, the promises of the Blueprint will never be realized, and real students and families will be harmed in the process.

For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Please contact Kenzie Funk at kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.

PJI Testimony_SB245 to End 287(g) – Hearing Thursd
Uploaded by: Kevin Beckford
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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,

The Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI) offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

The Pretrial Justice Institute is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming pretrial justice systems so that they are fair, equitable, and grounded in evidence rather than wealth or status. For more than two decades, PJI has worked with state and local jurisdictions across the country to reduce unnecessary pretrial detention, advance policies that uphold the presumption of innocence, and strengthen community based approaches to safety and court appearance. PJI serves justice-impacted individuals and families, including immigrant communities, through a combination of policy advocacy, research, technical assistance, education, and cross sector community engagement. Our work is rooted in close partnership with courts, pretrial agencies, community organizations, and advocates, and we have longstanding experience addressing the ways that immigration enforcement practices intersect with pretrial decision making and harm community trust.

At its core, **SB 245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

Consistent with national research and the experiences of pretrial justice practitioners across the country, the Pretrial Justice Institute understands that individuals impacted by ICE activity are significantly more likely to disengage from the justice system out of fear of detention or deportation. Studies and reports from legal advocates, researchers, and civil rights organizations have shown that collaboration between local law enforcement and federal

immigration authorities leads to reduced crime reporting, missed court appearances, and avoidance of pretrial services even when individuals are legally eligible for release or support. These outcomes undermine due process and public safety, while increasing the likelihood of unnecessary detention and family separation, particularly for people charged with low level offenses who would otherwise safely remain in their communities.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

These enforcement practices directly undermine PJI's mission, which is grounded in advancing equitable, evidence-based pretrial systems that uphold the presumption of innocence, promote court appearance, and support community safety without unnecessary detention. When local jurisdictions entangle pretrial decision making with federal immigration enforcement, it becomes significantly more difficult for PJI and its partners to ensure that individuals are treated fairly and assessed based on risk and needs rather than immigration status.

Fear of ICE involvement discourages people from engaging with pretrial services, complying with court requirements, or accessing supportive resources that are designed to help them succeed while awaiting trial. This erodes the effectiveness of pretrial release programs, increases the likelihood of detention for low level charges, and destabilizes families and communities that PJI seeks to support. Ultimately, these practices compromise trust in the justice system, weaken public safety outcomes, and obstruct the implementation of fair and humane pretrial policies that PJI works to advance across jurisdictions.

For these reasons, upJIrges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

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Uploaded by: Kiko McGowan

Position: FAV

To the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Kiko McGowan and I'm Baltimore resident and a member of District 43A. I support SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

This bill will protect all people in the United States.

I believe that passing of this bill is essential because simply based in theory, ICE and local police do not have the same goals. Also, both ICE and local police forces continuously fall short of actually protecting and helping people due to lack of proper training, lack of humanity and quite frankly, the rotten foundation both are built on. ICE needs to be out of our cities. Police force needs to be abolished or completely restructures and those community members serving in the police force must engage with their fellows, human to human, to effect change for the better. Both police and ICE are well known to dehumanize people. There is still time for those "serving" in these forces of cruelty to humanize themselves and treat others as such. I cannot see that happening as they work together.

We must meet another human to human. As an immigrant from Ukraine who has lived all 32 years of my life here since 16 days old, and also as a transgender individual; both of these powers that be do nothing but terrify me, even in theory. We must return to our humanity. There is still time to change but not much. By passing this bill, it will create more time and space for justice to be served to all people.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

Sincerely,

Kiko McGowan

667-899-5456

Testimony-SB0245-KHayes.pdf
Uploaded by: Kimberly Hayes
Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0245 - Favorable

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

January 20, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

I, Kim Hayes, a resident of Frederick, MD for almost 4 years now, offer my support for SB0245 **- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.**

Just this morning, I saw a video of a man - a US citizen - taken recently at gunpoint from his home in his underwear, in freezing temperatures. I'm seeing multiple videos of members of indigenous tribes - the most *American* Americans there are - being racially profiled and detained. I've heard of ICE agents breaking down doors when people refuse to allow them access without a proper warrant. I read of a young mother in Miami who went to a scheduled immigration appointment last April, only to be separated from her breastfeeding infant child and deported.

As a citizen of the US, I am disgusted and ashamed.

It's time to leave policing to the professionals and put ICE back where they belong, or, preferably, nowhere, since they have revealed themselves as unprofessional, unable to maintain their composure under stress, prone to highly emotional and dysregulated behavior, and blatantly lawless in their actions.

END 287G AGREEMENTS NOW.

We are a country of immigrants, and that's just one of the things that makes us great. I'm not sure what our country's current administration's end goal is with all of this. It's certainly not protecting us from sexual predators and cartels.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Kim Hayes
Resident of Frederick, MD, USA

SB245 Written Testimony 2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Kristina Korona
Position: FAV

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.

Written Testimony for SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Lahiruni Dias Amarawardena
Position: FAV

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 Lahiruni Dias, and I am a resident of **Montgomery County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

Law enforcement's role in any community is to uphold law and order, with the ultimate goal of protecting the community from harm. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), whether it be as far as Minneapolis, MN or as close as Gaithersburg, MD, **have shown considerable disregard for law and order**, often resorting to racially-profiled targeting and violence toward undocumented immigrants, citizens, and even lawful observers. Montgomery County and the state of Maryland is a community defined by rich racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity, and I have always been proud to call it home. NO ONE deserves to be separated from their family. I'm tired of waking up to bad news and dealing with constant waves of anxiety about the safety of my neighbors, colleagues, and family members. This is an apocalyptic situation, one people will read in their history textbooks years from now and wonder, "how could we have ever let this happen?" But the reality is that we still have the power to prepare and protect our communities through this hearing and the passage of this bill.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Since the August 2025 Executive Order detailing D.C. Metropolitan Police's collaboration with Immigration Enforcement, Maryland residents have feared the same policies being enacted in their state. According to an SSRS Opinion Poll conducted for CNN earlier this week, 51% of Americans believe that ICE presence is making cities less safe. An additional partnership between local law enforcement and immigration agents would only increase feelings of fear and ultimately aid in greater barriers to living normal lives (simple activities like going to the grocery store, performing work duties as usual, and spending time with friends and family have become worlds harder). Carrying a passport around has become the new norm, and "documents" and "papers" are seemingly what defines humanity.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Again, the job of local law enforcement will always be to protect the communities they serve, and collaboration with ICE would aid in the deterioration of trust in our community, along with a myriad of other problems such as mental health emergencies, a drop in school attendance, and greater financial strain on residents. **I am confident that the great state of Maryland will make the right choice, one backed by countless residents, to join other states like California, Illinois, and Connecticut in prohibiting the 287(g) program from ever hurting our community.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Lana Foley
Position: FAV

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 Lana Foley and I am a resident of Salisbury, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I am in support of banning 287(g) from Maryland because I feel that ICE has been able to do their jobs without support of local tax payer funded law officers/resources for years and years. I don't think we should take on the the financial or potential legal liability in our state for the lawless behavior that the current ICE officers are using. We don't want it in Maryland at all but if this is our only option we are in support of banning 287(g).

I had a woman swarmed and stolen by ICE in front of my house days before Christmas. She had just dropped of her child at our elementary school. If we had been late that morning OUR child would have witness the entire car being swarmed by masked agents that smashed out the window of a woman that was only 4'10" tall. The insanity of tactics they are using is not acceptable and I don't want to help them in our community since they clearly blur boundaries.

ICE should be under MORE regulations vs. allowing them a candy store of humans in our booking/jails/courts.

Another friend was stolen from her job when her 15 year old child was DYING. She begged and we begged for her to be able to be released to

be with him. He died the day after she was stolen. We are trying to get her home for his service now. These people are not criminals and they are only considered criminals because of our national leadership. The definition of criminal shouldn't be able to be changed just because someone doesn't like having black and brown residents in our country. We invited and hosted SO many of them to be here. Its wrong for us to be doing this to human beings that work so hard for this country.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lana Foley

Senate.SB245.Favorable.LauraAtwood.pdf
Uploaded by: Laura Atwood
Position: FAV

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 Laura Atwood, and I am a longtime resident of Silver Spring, 20910. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I am a physical therapist who's worked in people's homes and in rehab hospitals, and my job requires me to see and connect with the humanity in everyone I treat. My kids went to MCPS schools and made friends with classmates from a variety of backgrounds, and they--and I--have valued those connections.

I support **SB 245** because ICE is out of control, with regular displays of lawlessness, cruelty, and violations of Constitutional and basic human rights. Once local law enforcement turns anyone at all over to ICE, that person's fate leaves local control. Turning someone over to ICE is akin to committing those atrocities oneself.

(An apt analogy is that if the courts have ruled that the U.S. may not deport someone back to the home country due to dangers there, and the U.S. deports the person to a third country that then deports the person to the home country--well, the U.S. has effectively violated court orders.)

Immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims. Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Laura Roth
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY FOR SB0245

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Private Citizen

Person Submitting: Laura Roth

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0245.

I wholeheartedly oppose the involvement of Maryland state and local law enforcement agents in federal immigration enforcement activities and for my tax dollars, as a state resident, from supporting such activities. The bill seeks to ensure that state and local resources are not used to enforce federal immigration laws, thereby protecting the rights and safety of all residents, regardless of their immigration status. Additionally, the bill prohibits the state, local governments, county sheriffs, and their agents from entering into immigration enforcement agreements with federal authorities (287(g) agreements) while mandating the termination of any existing agreements by July 1, 2026.

As a citizen, I am witnessing people confused about whether local and state law enforcement is assisting immigration and customs enforcement and this confusion erodes the public trust in such institutions. As immigration and customs enforcement is increasingly acting in a manner contrary to our constitutional rights and not properly keeping their tracking systems updated in a timely or professional manner, citizens are feeling a need to document interactions. As a result, citizens, who often cannot tell the difference between state and local police operations and ICE/CBP, are finding a need to show up an attempt to document regardless of what manner of enforcement is occurring. This puts both the public and local law enforcement in unnecessary danger.

By limiting the involvement of state and local law enforcement in federal immigration enforcement, the bill aims to build trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, encouraging cooperation and reporting of crimes. This can lead to safer communities overall. Furthermore, the bill ensures that state and local resources are focused on public safety priorities rather than federal immigration enforcement, promoting a more efficient and just use of resources. There is no jurisdiction in the state that has extra funds to allow their police force to participate in federal immigration enforcement without compromising the services they are obligated to provide.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and other legislation that treats law-abiding immigrants with the fairness all Marylanders deserve - I do as well. I believe that by prioritizing the well-being and rights of every resident, we can foster a more inclusive and secure community for everyone.

I support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Immigration enforcement 287g testimony SB 245 .pdf
Uploaded by: lauren young
Position: FAV

Testimony SB 245

Public Safety-Immigrant Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

FAVORABLE

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

I write as a citizen of Maryland to urge you to please provide a favorable report on SB 245. Reading news accounts and witnessing immigration tactics and enforcement activities compels action on this proposed legislation. As an attorney I have provided pro bono representation to immigrant children and know of immigrant neighbors who have been detained. Detention is not appropriate for many individuals who cannot reasonably contest their detention or status while held in what are often poor and isolating conditions. I have known of individuals who lacked proper health care while detained.

Current ICE enforcement practices, using racial profiling, use of force, and lack of due process, illustrate why we need to pause and end any practices that place a community in fear and expand immigration enforcement to state and local law enforcement. Given the massive federal resources allotted to immigration enforcement, it also belies common sense to add extra enforcement duties to state or local policing.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments, and for voting to issue a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Lauren Young

410-562-7263

Laureny13@icloud.com

Testimony IN FAVOR SB245 Indivisible Howard County
Uploaded by: Laurie Liskin
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – Favorable

SB 245-Public Safety - on Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

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

Indivisible Howard County offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 245-Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreement-Prohibition.**

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, Indivisible Howard County has more than 1,400 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. Our Immigration Action Team collaborates with other immigrant support groups statewide. In 2025 we have distributed more than 7,700 Know Your Rights cards to community members, hosted Know Your Rights trainings, established a Rapid Response Team Network, and lobbied for immigrant rights in Annapolis.

SB 245 prohibits immigrant enforcement agreements in Maryland and terminates existing 287 (g) agreements. These agreements are inconsistent with Maryland's values and long-held commitment to diversity. For decades immigrants—documented and undocumented—have been welcomed in Maryland. They have played a vital role in Maryland's economy, growing our state population, boosting innovation and entrepreneurship, and paying more than $100 million annually in state and local taxes. (https://www.marylandcomptroller.gov/content/dam/mdcomp/md/reports/research/immigration-economy.pdf)

Indivisible Howard County supports SB 245 for the following reasons:

- 287 (g) agreements take up county staff time and resources that should be focused on keeping our communities safe. Law enforcement positions are unfilled in many Maryland jurisdictions. We cannot burden existing officers with additional responsibilities.
- 287(g) agreements can cost counties money. While ICE covers the cost of training deputized officers, state and local governments are responsible for all personnel costs, including salaries, benefits, and overtime, as well as all administrative supplies (https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/287g-program-immigration#:~:text=Researchers%20have%20found%20that%20287,Latino%20and%20Black%20community%20residents).
- 287(g) agreements promote racism and racial profiling. The overwhelming number of people detained through the 287(g) program are Black or Latino.

- 287 (g) programs do not protect the public against serious crime. Nationally and in Maryland, the majority of people detained through 287(g) programs have no criminal convictions.
- 287(g) programs undermine public trust in law enforcement leading to less cooperation with police. Immigrants are less likely to come forward as witnesses, provide tips, and seek protection. (https://www.aclu.org/publications/license-abuse-how-ices-287g-program-empowers-racist-sheriffs)

While there have been widely publicized cases of violent crimes committed by immigrants, multiple studies have shown that both undocumented and documented immigrants are less likely to commit serious crimes than people born in the United States.

Indivisible Howard County urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report** on **SB 245**.

FAVORABLE SB0245_Lia Nigro.pdf
Uploaded by: Lia Nigro
Position: FAV

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:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony IN FAVOR of HB 245, which will end 287g Intergovernmental Service Agreements between the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local law enforcement agencies in Maryland.

My name is Lia Nigro; I am a resident of Columbia, MD and volunteer with the organization Indivisible Howard County. In my role doing Communications for them and working on their Immigration Action Team, I have had opportunity to learn about 287g. The facts are rather surprising and there is no doubt in my mind that maintaining such agreements not only goes against my own principles but also, and more importantly to you, against the best interests of Maryland law enforcement agencies and the general public. Here are a few key reasons:

- 287g is a risky investment. While ICE may present 287g as a money-maker, uncovered overtime and administrative costs as well as the expense of holding individuals in jail who would not otherwise be imprisoned will add up. Also, and particularly significant--costly litigation is likely. ICE is currently immune to civil suits but state law enforcement agencies are not.
- 287g encourages violation of civil rights and distracts officers from their mission of ensuring public safety. An immigration focus often coupled with rewards based on number of individuals arrested can lead to racial profiling. Time, energy, and resources are spent detaining individuals who would normally not have been arrested.
- 287g does not lead to detaining more violent criminals or reducing crime rates. The agreements end up targeting the innocent and low-level offenders. Between 2016 and 2023, 92 percent of individuals deported through Maryland 287g programs had either no convictions or only a “level 3” (lowest level) conviction.
  Neither Montgomery or Prince Georges Counties have 287(g) programs, and they each have a higher immigrant population than does Frederick County, which has 287(g) Yet, Montgomery and Prince George’s have their crime rates in recent years at a much greater rate than Frederick has,
- 287g undermines public trust. Especially in the immigrant community, it leads to fear of law enforcement and hesitancy to report crimes or testify in court. Absent these witnesses to crime, criminal justice and public safety suffer.

I encourage you to vote IN FAVOR of HB 245.

Thank you for your consideration.

Background Information:

Fact Sheet: 287g Programs. American Immigration Council. https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/287g-program-immigration

Position on Proposed Legislation, Maryland Office of the Public Defender, 2025. https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/cmte_testimony/2025/jud/1TXTkzUAgN2_SbHBNhBzUQBGpKcaCVnt-.pdf

Research into Immigration and Crime: Advancing the Understanding of Immigration, Crime, and Crime Reporting at the Local Level with a Synthetic Population. National Criminal Justice Reference System, 2025. https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/310356.pdf

Seven Truths Surrounding 287g Programs. ACLU, 2025. https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/cmte_testimony/2025/jud/1gWde5fwyh9GgxukF7j0agajBeDF8bvg8.pdf

Testimony on SB 245 Immigration Enforcement Agreem

Uploaded by: Linda Green

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 245

FAVORABLE

SB245: 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 Linda Green and I am a resident of Mount Rainier, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB245. As a member of the American Public Health Association and Doctors for Camp Closure I am offering "favorable" testimony today.

Last year I shared experiences of my friends at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland and their history of racist policing and immigrant detention in Frederick County. The collaboration of local police with ICE had been ongoing under 287 G and led to dangers to residents. It also diverted local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors.

This year the situation is far worse throughout my neighborhood and surrounding areas where ICE raids on my neighbors have included being snatched while mowing the lawn or going to work or dropping off children at school. The collaboration of transit and park police with ICE has made travel on subways or the BW Parkway particularly dangerous. WE must not allow our police to join in the collaboration with ICE. Today I know that residents have stopped going to doctors or sending children to school. A friend who teaches kindergarten has seen her class shrink from 18 to 12 students. Colleagues I know from my medical career as a physician report more "no shows" and fewer appointments. My neighbors and I patrol our food distribution centers and schools but still have had one mother detained walking home from school a few blocks away. Allowing 287 g programs to expand in the state was the outcome of last year's failures to act. Now is the time for the legislature to shut down Maryland's participation in this program.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB245.

SB245 - End 287g agreements.pdf
Uploaded by: Lindsay Keipper
Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of **District 46, and I am testifying in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

The End 287g Agreements Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in eight Maryland counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including: increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resulting "chilling effect" in Hispanic communities.[1] Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program"[2] Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The Trump administration's focus on sheer numbers in immigration enforcement has enhanced this effect, and his inauguration encouraged even more Maryland counties to enter immigration enforcement agreements.[3] ICE has invaded our communities in such numbers that immigrants – even those with official status – are constantly afraid as they go about their lives. Allowing local law enforcement agencies to join in this massive racial profiling effort heightens the climate of fear, and ensures that people cannot ever call on the police for help, because the officers are more concerned with identifying and deporting immigrants than preventing or solving crime.

Maryland's large immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing $8 billion in federal and $4 billion in state taxes, providing $2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power[4]. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Keipper
2425 Fleet St.
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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[1] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018

[2] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1

[3] Sam Gaunt; As immigration arrests surge, so does number of Maryland sheriffs agreeing to work with ICE; Maryland Matters; July 21, 2025.

[4] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council

[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

Testimony FOR SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Linnie Girdner
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

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

My name is Linda Girdner and I am a resident of Gambrills, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

Maryland law grants police officers broad **authority to enforce state and local laws**, conduct investigations, and maintain public order. This authority is primarily derived from the Maryland Code, Public Safety Article 3-201. Just for clarification, there is no mention of enforcing federal laws, such as immigration enforcement. Consider these two sections:

"(d) (1) "Law enforcement agency" means a governmental police force, sheriff's office, or security force or law enforcement organization of the State, a county, or a municipal corporation that by statute, ordinance, or common law is **authorized to enforce the general criminal laws of the State."** (Emphasis added).

"(f) (1) "Police officer" means an individual who: (i) is **authorized to enforce the general criminal laws of the State."** (Emphasis added).

I have family in multiple Maryland communities and I want them to stay safe. I strongly believe that our law enforcement officers should use their time and resources wisely by enforcing Maryland laws, not cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE, with its calendar/fiscal 2025 budget between $28.7 billion -- $29.9 billion is overflowing with resources. It is irrational and unwise to further support them by taking our law enforcement officers away from the duties they are legally obligated to perform.

In addition, I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create barriers for law enforcement officers to even learn about crimes that have been committed as well as challenges to conducting investigations and solving crimes. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses. This does not keep anyone, but real criminals, safe.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

287(g) makes Marylanders less safe and contributes to the awful fantasy that all immigrants are criminals. Data show that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than native-born Americans. So focus attention on what matters to most Marylanders and ban all 287(g) agreements with ICE along with any other collaborations with ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Linda Girdner

941 Fall Ridge Way

Gambrills, MD 21054

SB___287g.pdf
Uploaded by: Lisa Barkan
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: January 22, 2026

Lisa Anne Barkan
Towson MD 21286

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: Lisa Anne Barkan

My name is Lisa Anne Barkan. I am a resident of District 42B. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

The Trump administration is engaged in a nationwide campaign to terrorize and demonize immigrants. Immigrants have been disappeared, detained, and deported. Some immigrants have been sent back to countries where they will be killed.

Immigration Customs and Enforcement Agents ("ICE Agents") are integral to this campaign. I watch in horror as masked ICE Agents, who do not carry identification: pull immigrants out of their cars, forcibly enter their homes, and remove them from their families. Every day in Maryland, ICE Agents separate at least ten immigrant families.

I became an attorney because of my profound belief in the rule of law. I have loved my country– even with its many flaws.—because of its ideals: to pursue justice, to encourage dissent, and to welcome all. My grandparents fled to the United States to escape pogroms. The U.S. provided them safety and security. My sacred texts teach me to treat everyone the same and to welcome, protect, care for and love those from other lands. I am commanded "not to wrong them." Leviticus 19:33-34.

ICE has entered into voluntary agreements with localities that deputize local law enforcement agents to act as ICE Agents. Eight Maryland counties have entered such agreements. SB245 would prohibit the state, local jurisdictions, and officials, from entering these types of agreements.

Maryland should not participate in and further this administration's cruel treatment of immigrants. Immigrants should live without fear of being abducted and having their families torn apart. Our country is based on laws—not the dictates of any person.

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

TESTIMONY FOR SB0045_Ban 287g.pdf
Uploaded by: Liz Enagonio
Position: FAV

Admin Team
Email: info@ibbmd.org
Liz Enagonio
Jasmine Gollup
Amy Stevens
Carrieann Petersen

TESTIMONY FOR SB0245
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: Senator Will Smith
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Organization Submitting: Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD)
Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, co-founder
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony **in favor of SB0245** on behalf of Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD). IBBMD is a group of several hundred grassroots activists in Bowie and surrounding areas in Prince George's County, working to bring justice, equality, and people-centric legislation to Maryland.

SB0245 would prohibit the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement; and requiring the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before July 1, 2026. IBBMD supports this bill for all the reasons you will hear today: that Maryland should not be spending our taxpayer dollars to help ICE, that 287g agreements destroy community trust in law enforcement, that a majority of immigrants detained by ICE have no criminal records, and more.

But we see the **human** cost of ICE in our neighborhoods. We see unidentified individuals with their faces hidden knocking our neighbors to the ground, dragging them across pavement, throwing them in unmarked vehicles, and driving away, leaving no record of where they are taking the kidnapped person. We see kids afraid to go to school, and parents afraid to accompany them. So here's why we think 287g agreements should be banned in Maryland: we don't think our law enforcement officers should be party to fascism. We don't want our officers to HELP PROMOTE this uncontrolled and inhumane behavior from ICE. We think law enforcement officers in

Maryland should be protecting our law-abiding, hard-working, valued immigrant neighbors from being yanked out of their trucks and off our streets by masked thugs acting like America's Gestapo.

IBBMD requests a FAVORABLE vote on SB0245 with no weakening amendments. It is our moral imperative to do as much as possible to protect our fellow human beings who happen to be immigrants.

SB0245 - Immigration 287g- HoCoCA_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Liz Feighner
Position: FAV

HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

SB0245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith
Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings
Hearing Date: January 22, 2026
Submitting: Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action
Position: Favorable

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

HoCo Climate Action is a 350.org local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. Our organization works with residents and ally organizations to promote a safe climate and a just and clean energy future.

We urge you to vote favorably on **SB0245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition,** which would prohibit law enforcement officers from wearing face coverings while performing their duties unless actively engaged in an undercover operation.

Our work focuses on addressing climate change in a just and equitable way for Howard County and all Marylanders. We inform, educate, and engage with communities and legislators advocating for essential climate justice policy. We work in partnership with other groups and coalitions and seek to support and lift up the issues, needs, and goals of frontline communities and communities of color. Many of these communities are already overburdened and underserved and should not be subjected to local law enforcement acting as immigration enforcement agents.

At its core, **SB0245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

We have all seen the many videos of people being snatched, beat up, shot, killed, pepper-sprayed, cursed, thrown to the ground, assaulted, threatened, kidnapped and then disappeared. The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers. Many of the frontline communities are already suffering from environmental injustices, and we strongly abhor the practices of immigration enforcement that further these injustices.

We support **SB0245** and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Howard County Climate Action
Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee
www.HoCoClimateAction.org
HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com

Testimony for SB0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Liz Feighner
Position: FAV

Testimony for SB0245

SB0245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith
Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings
Hearing Date: January 22, 2026
Submitting: Liz Feighner
Position: Favorable

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

My name is Liz Feighner and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland in District 13. I am writing in **support of SB0245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I have been horrified by the illegal and unconstitutional actions by ICE and other federal agents. Their thuggish behavior includes unconstitutional racial and ethnic profiling and is detrimental to the fabric of our society and democracy. As a granddaughter of immigrants, I realize that my family could be hunted down like dogs had they immigrated to the states in later years than when they did in the early 1900's.

I support **SB0245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses - even when they are victims.

I do not want my local tax dollars to be spent by local law enforcement for immigration actions when they divert needed resources from traditional and effective local law enforcement functions of protecting our communities. It is bad enough that our federal tax dollars are being spent on illegal activities terrorizing communities.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. Local police are insufficiently trained to enforce complex federal immigration laws and local law enforcement participation leads to mistrust in communities and can turn minor interactions into life-altering situations including separation from families.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB0245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Liz Feighner
Howard County, MD
District 13

FAV Testimony on SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Loraine Arikat
Position: FAV

Testimony on **SB 245**

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Position: FAV

To Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee,

My name is Ricarra Jones and I am the Political Director for 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Maryland/DC. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation, representing 10,000 members in our region. Our union supports SB245 and urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report.

When passed, this bill will prohibit 287g agreements that enable local law enforcement to act on behalf of federal immigration agents. Marylanders will be better served and more safe when our state and local resources are dedicated towards expanding access care and building strong communities, not diverted to do ICE's bidding at the behest of a federal regime that does not value due process.

Please vote YES on this legislation. Thank you.

In Unity,

Ricarra Jones
Political Director
1199SEIU UHW E
ricarra.jones@1199.org

SB0245, FAV, Jud Proc.pdf
Uploaded by: Lore Rosenthal
Position: FAV

Lore Lyon Rosenthal
2 Gardenway, Unit R
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2234H
SimplicityGroupsMD@gmail.com

Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Testimony on: SB0245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition
Organization: Individual
Person Submitting: Lore Lyon Rosenthal
Position: favorable
Hearing Date: Jan 22, 2026

Dear Chairman Smith and members of the committee,

I am writing in favor of SB024- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Local police should not be cooperating with ICE and/or helping them.
What ICE is doing is illegal.
Local police have other duties.
Both the City of Greenbelt and Prince George's County have standing orders and ordinances not to cooperate with ICE.
The rest of Maryland should follow their example.

For all these reasons, I recommend a favorable report on SB0245.

Thanks,

Lore Lyon Rosenthal

SB245 Public Safety (287g)2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Loreen Heinz
Position: FAV

SB245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Position: Favorable

January 20, 2026

To: William Smith, Chair; Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair; and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

My name is Loreen Heinz; I'm from District 12A and am representing myself.

I am writing in support of SB 0245 to prohibit Maryland law enforcement officers at the state and local levels from cooperating with immigration officials. There is a discrepancy between what the agency states as its mission and the actual ways the officials are apprehending immigrants.

Cooperation with ICE is not without costs. ICE training is paid for by the federal government, but simultaneously it diverts personnel resources during the training period—time and money that would be better spent enhancing evidence-based community enforcement. Its lawless behavior has resulted in suits against federal officers which are paid by the county involved. Frederick County has had to pay $500K to settle two lawsuits regarding racial profiling and prolonged detention, actions taken by ICE agents.

There are other costs. While federal agents claim to be arresting violent criminals, actually they are arresting, detaining, and deporting people with no criminal record or with misdemeanor records. They are racial profiling people, including detaining American citizens who look suspicious to them. They are arresting immigrants who are following the law and keeping their court appointments. By acting first and trying to explain later, they flaunt the rule of law and the right to due process.

The brutal tactics used by these federal agents result in another cost—the lack of trust in law enforcement in general. It makes immigrants hesitant to report suspicious activity in their neighborhoods or to serve as witnesses in fear of being apprehended.

Cooperation at any level with ICE implies Maryland condones their behavior. Cooperation at any level makes Maryland complicit in the violence and even the deaths of immigrants and citizens alike at the hands of these officers. Law enforcement officers are supposed to keep the peace, not instill fear and disruption in public life. As it stands 287g agreements are one-sided; the federal government sets the rules, and the state pays the price. True cooperation would be the state agrees to train officers to assist in immigration and customs enforcement, and ICE agents agree to train and adhere to the standards required by all Maryland law enforcement officers. Otherwise, Maryland gets the short end, submits to federal authority, and we're left with a national police force with no accountability.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote YES to maintain our civil rights in a civil society.

testimony concerning SB0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Lorraine Wilson
Position: FAV

Testimony Concerning: SB0245 Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition

Judicial Proceedings Committee Hearing: January 22, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

Honorable Judicial Proceedings Committee Members

I am writing in support of the prohibition of immigration enforcement agreements. Although I am writing as a private citizen, I collaborated with immigrant advocacy groups in the past to ensure that these agreements would not be part of our law enforcement agencies in the state of Maryland. We worked very diligently to keep it out of Prince George's County and other counties worked very hard to keep it out of theirs. Our reasons seem obvious to us, but I will attempt to explain briefly. It is for the sake of public trust. In my profession and in my private life, I have known many immigrants. Because they are overwhelmingly, more than any other group less likely to commit a crime, and much more likely to call the police if they witness a crime than any other group, I and others, too, believe it is foolhardy to break this well- earned trust between the police and the people they are entrusted to protect.

I will not go on needlessly. Everything I stated above is true and has been proven to be true over and over again. Many, if not all, police officers agree.

Please vote yes on this prohibition and please do not think frivolously of it. It is an important piece of legislation and will have lasting consequences for years, and perhaps decades to come. Please make your best judgement to do what is right and fair and do not succumb to the theatrics of those who would oppose such legislation. Their insinuations, I'm sorry to say, are filled with exaggerations which I'm ashamed to even have to listen to.

Thank you.

Lorraine A. Wilson

8719 62nd Ave.

Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

barranw@comcast.net

SB 0245_LW_JPC_January 22, 2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Louise Weissman
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026
Louise Weissman
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Testimony on SB0245:
Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition Position: Favorable
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee

FR: Louise Weissman

My name is Louise Weissman. I'm a resident in Greenbelt - District 22 and I am writing in support of **SB 0245- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.** I ask that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee return a **favorable report.**

I am the daughter and granddaughter of Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants who came to the United States in the first part of the 20th century. My family members left Poland and Russia as persecution against Jews was rampant there. Extended family members already in the U.S. urged them to immigrate as soon as possible, pointing to public discussions about exclusion acts that would put limits on Jewish migration.

I hope my comments do not suggest that the Jewish immigration story is comparable to the experiences that immigrants currently face. But our country is experiencing the emergence of fascism led by a Presidential Administration that doesn't care about our Constitution and Rules of Law. The DHS/ICE operation of 287(g) simply reinforces a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions.

Now federal agents are assaulting, detaining, and disappearing immigrants across the U.S. The result leaves communities terrorized and division sown as a vehicle to maintain power. These brutal assaults are reckless and inhumane and should not be a part of our country's story. Sadly, now I'm reminded of the German para-military, the Sturmabeilung or Brownshirts, who carried out similar acts as Hitler rose to power.

Immigrant safety and protection as well as measures to create a pathway to citizenship are important to me. Prohibiting the State and our local governments from entering into agreements with ICE should be a priority during the 2026 Annapolis session. I strongly believe we must pass legislation that reflects the aspirations of our nation. Nobody, regardless of immigration status, should fear deportation or family separation. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL.pdf
Uploaded by: Lucy Buxton
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL – IN SUPPORT

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is **Lucy Buxton** and I am a **resident of Harford County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

It has been sickening to me to watch the occupation of American cities by ICE. Masked ICE agents have been given carte blanche to terrorize citizens and non-citizens alike in cities whose leadership is Democratic. In Minneapolis the president has been clear that deploying ICE is part and parcel of a revenge and retribution campaign. ICE is not focused on illegal and criminal immigrants. Its role is to terrorize and intimidate Americans whose political views differ from those of the president.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) legitimize this rogue agency and have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. These agreements divert local resources away from protecting communities. They promote the cruel and unconstitutional deportations and detention of countless innocent people. Enough. This is not an America I recognize.

For these reasons I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Support SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Lynda Davis
Position: FAV

Support SB 245

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

My name is Lynda Davis and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynda Davis

SB0245 2026Written Testimony 1:22:2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Lynn Mortoro
Position: FAV

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal
Public Policy
Network

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0245

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FAVORABLE

January 22, 2026

TO: Chair Senator William C. Smith, Jr, Vice Chair Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, and all members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Lynn R. Mortoro, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network. (MEPPN)

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

At its core, SB 245 is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

As part of the Immigration policy, updated in 2024, the Episcopal Church believes in the need to support refugees and immigrants through advocacy, resettlement, and local ministries, urging the U.S. government to maintain robust refugee programs and enact comprehensive immigration reform. We need to provide community-based and community-supported alternatives to detention; fund non-governmental non-profit organizations to deliver case management support based on individualized needs assessments; Include referrals to community-supported services, especially legal services; treat asylum seekers and migrants with dignity, humanity, and respect, assuring that any restrictions and compliance obligations placed on participants are the least onerous possible.

As Episcopalians, we believe in Jesus' command to us to "Care for our Neighbors as ourselves."

The Diocese of Maryland requests a Favorable report

4 E University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21218-2437
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www.EpiscopalMaryland.org

SB0245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Madelin Martinez
Position: FAV

CATHOLIC CHARITIES | CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Senate Bill 245
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Judicial Proceedings Committee
1/20/2026
Favorable

Catholic Charities supports Senate Bill 245, which prohibits the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement with the federal government and requires the termination of any existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before July 1, 2026.

For more than a century, Catholic Charities has provided care and services that improve the lives of Marylanders in need. We accompany Marylanders as they age with dignity; support their pursuit of employment and career advancement; help individuals heal from trauma and addiction; promote independence and educational success; and welcome immigrant neighbors into communities across the state.

As the largest private provider of human services in Maryland, Catholic Charities is deeply committed to supporting immigrant communities through our Esperanza Center and other programs, including Head Start and meal programs that serve those in need. Since 1963, the Esperanza Center has served as a vital resource for immigrants, offering comprehensive services through a dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

As an organization that works closely with thousands of immigrants each year, we understand the importance of prohibiting the State and units of local government from entering into immigration enforcement agreements for the following reasons:

- 287(g) agreements, and similar arrangements that authorize local law enforcement to perform the duties of federal immigration officers, are harmful to communities and neighborhoods by creating fear and distrust of local law enforcement. They do not enhance public safety as outlined below, and they are associated with incidents of racial profiling that have only intensified in the current federal anti-immigrant policy actions.
- The training provided under these agreements is inadequate and has led to documented civil rights violations, as well as injuries and death of citizens and immigrants alike.
- Studies show that immigrants are significantly less likely to report crimes they witness or crimes committed against them in jurisdictions with 287(g) agreements, undermining public safety for everyone.
- These agreements blur enforcement roles and divert state and local officers from their primary responsibilities, while federal immigration authorities should carry out federal immigration enforcement independently.
- Beyond 287(g) agreements, recent federal enforcement practices have expanded ICE operations into spaces that were previously considered protected, including churches, schools, and courthouses. ICE presence in courthouses, in particular, discourages individuals from appearing in court due to fear of detention or violence, interfering with the effective administration of justice at the state level.

Senate Bill 245 directly addresses these concerns by establishing clear protections for immigrant communities and citizens alike and reaffirming the appropriate boundaries between state and federal responsibilities. This protection is essential to maintaining trust between immigrant residents and State and local government institutions. For these reasons, **Catholic Charities of Baltimore respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 245**.

Submitted By: Madelin Martinez

SB245 Testimony (M Sumida).pdf
Uploaded by: Madeline Sumida
Position: FAV

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 Makoto Sumida, and I am a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I have worked as an English for Speakers of Other Languages teacher for CASA for a decade. Over the years, I have come to recognize the depth of my students' incredible determination and dedication to being productive and caring members of our community, despite the challenges they face. I am appalled that the Trump administration has facilitated and indeed encouraged the flouting of due process and democratic values, especially in the practices of immigration enforcement agents.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I have witnessed an ICE agent detaining an immigrant worker just a block away from the center where I teach English. I was unable to stop and record the incident because I feared that the agent would note my destination and retaliate against the workers and students who depend on the center for classes and other resources. I have listened as my students describe how their friends, neighbors, and relatives have been taken into detention during routine check-ins. Every day I am afraid that one of my dear friends will be taken away by ICE.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Makoto Sumida

SB 245 EconActionMD FAV.docx.pdf
Uploaded by: Marceline White
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Position: Favorable

January 22, 2026

The Honorable Will Smith, Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee

Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland Fund is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights, equity, and housing justice for Maryland families through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

Economic Action Maryland Fund writes in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

Through our tenant and older adult direct service programs, Economic Action Maryland Fund serves immigrant clients and communities.

Through our work on medical debt, we saw how immigrant families delayed treatment for medical issues due to fear and we are concerned families are not receiving services they need due to fear of these agreements that allow counties to partner with immigration enforcement.

At its core, **SB 245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not undermine public trust, or divert state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

For these reasons, Economic Action Maryland Fund supports SB245 and urges a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White

Executive Director

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD 21218 | www.econaction.org
Marceline White · Marceline@EconAction.org | Jennifer Bevan-Dangel · Jennifer@EconAction.org

Greenberg - Favorable SB0245 01-22-26.pdf
Uploaded by: Marcia Greenberg
Position: FAV

Testimony on SB 245 – Favorable

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

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

My name is Marcia Greenberg and I am a resident of Lexington Park in St Mary's County**.** I am writing in support of **SB 245, prohibiting the use of Immigration Enforcement Agreements between local law enforcement and ICE.**

I am a Jewish American who was raised on accounts of the Holocaust in Germany, Poland, Hungary and elsewhere. We know all too well how Hitler and his SS thugs identified, rounded up, humiliated, starved and exterminated 6 million Jews. One of our very dear family friends, Anna Ornstein, survived Auschwitz. As a young girl in Hungary, she saw how the Nazis and Gestapo grew more powerful by the day. Until her passing last year, Anna was a strong and courageous voice reminding people of how her family had perished and she suffered. She knew that not enough was done to stop them before it was too late. Nothing that we are seeing is new; and the growing threat is not hypothetical.

The steps that we are seeing, moving toward a hate-driven secret policy, have all been seen before. And for those of us who have always wondered, "How could the Germans have let that happen?" we know that it is now on us to speak up, speak out, and stop it from growing in our country. In Nazi-controlled areas, more people needed to speak up and defend targeted populations. But some did – and just as principled, heroic people joined the Resistance, we must do ABSOLUTELY everything that we can to stop ICE. We need to do this morally, for our immigrant neighbors. But we must also take action for ourselves, because ICE has expanded from criminals to innocent people, from people here unlawfully to people who have followed the rules, from people who are not US citizens to those who are citizens and have even fought to protect our country. ICE tactics are certainly part of a much large scheme of authoritarian control.

In her final years, our brave and resilient friend, Anna, watched Trump, Stephen Miller and others in absolute horror. It was all TOO familiar – and threatening. In her memory and honor, and learning from the horrors of history, **we must act with resolve, in any ways that we can.**

With Republicans controlling the White House and Congress, and with MAGA controlling Republicans, we cannot stop the madness and cruelty at the national level. Nor can it be stopped in many of our red counties that have racist sheriffs. We must, therefore, use our state government to prevent collaboration by local law enforcement officers who harbor hate and threaten their very own communities.

Furthermore, such agreements like 287(g) make us all LESS secure by generating fear in immigrant communities. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims. And our local law enforcement resources must be spent on the normal, day-to-day protection of our communities. Time spent enabling ICE terror is also diverting local resources away from protecting communities.

Lastly, no matter our religious upbringing and beliefs, Americans share values of compassion, love for the stranger, and respect for human dignity. Where are those fundamental values within our

communities in Maryland? Programs founded on 287(g) contractual provisions have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. That is not justice. That contradicts the beliefs that we espouse in our churches and synagogues, that we teach our children, and that we honor as Americans.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marcia Greenberg

FCDP Testimony - Request for a Full 287(g) Ban - 0
Uploaded by: Mari Lee
Position: FAV

Frederick County Democratic Party
Mailing: P.O. Box 793, Frederick, MD 21705
Email: info@frederickdemocrats.org
Phone: 240-288-1148

Tuesday, January 20, 2025

Frederick County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC)

Executive Officers
Mari Lee
Chair

Deb Reynolds
Vice Chair

Antonio Bowens
Secretary

McCamie Patterson
Treasurer

Shelly Beaird-Francois
Editor

Members
Glenn Blanchard
Andrew Burgoyne
Josh Cramer
Milton Hallin
Megan LeRoux
Gayon Sampson
Amanda Stone-Gines
Jessica Tuel
Marc Weinberg

Associate Members
Taylor Elder
Teresa Schwab

Dear Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

The Frederick County Democratic Central Committee strongly urges you to vote to end Maryland's participation in the Federal 287(g) Program ("Program").

Maryland's public safety, legislative, and law enforcement strategies emphasize fairness, inclusion, and community-based policing. The Program runs counter to these values.

Studies raise concerns about racial profiling, civil rights violations, and resource misuse, with no clear proof that it makes our communities safer.

The Program is no longer a limited effort to deport the "worst of the worst" undocumented immigrants. It is now part of the Trump Administration's effort to suppress, to intimidate, and to instill fear into our immigrant communities and American citizens. Masked, unidentifiable ICE agents are engaging in unchecked, unconstitutional practices and abuses throughout the country, including Maryland.

Community members fear leaving their homes for school drop-offs, medical care, or groceries. The Program exposes our communities to crime and harms our justice system. People are less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek police help. This breakdown in trust makes everyone less safe.

The Program also harms our business community. Our members hear daily about businesses unable to hire, closing early due to staff shortages, and facing shortfalls as immigrant neighbors stay home. With spring home improvement season approaching, construction and landscaping companies worry about handling spring workloads with fewer workers.

Ending the Program would avoid these harmful effects and let law enforcement focus on community safety and trust without straining resources.

We respectfully implore you to end all 287(g) agreements in Maryland immediately to strengthen public safety, restore trust in government, and uphold civil rights.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

By Authority: FCDCC, McCamie Patterson, Treasurer

FAVORABLE SB0245_Marian Marbury.pdf
Uploaded by: Marian Marbury
Position: FAV

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 Marian Marbury and I am a Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support **SB 245** because 1) Community safety is my priority issue; and 2) ICE has been shown repeatedly to ignore laws and beat people up; refusing to cooperate with them in every legal way possible is our moral responsibility. We know that the fear created by immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) keeps immigrants from seeking help when they need it and reporting crimes when they see them, even when they are the victims.

Law enforcement officials have a difficult task, and that task becomes more difficult when the bond of trust between the community and the officials is broken. Experience teaches us that programs like 287(g) lead to increases in racial profiling and discrimination. When local agencies become involved in federal deportation efforts, they are less available to serve true community needs. And unfortunately in the current federal efforts, too may detainments and deportations result in family separations.

I support deportation of immigrants who have been convicted of committing crimes. But in the current climate it is imperative that the state of Maryland resist ICE's violent and often unlawful tactics by refusing to cooperate with them in any way.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Support-SB 245- End 287(g) Agreements- Marilyn Car

Uploaded by: Marilyn Carlisle

Position: FAV

SB 245--Public Safety

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Marilyn Carlisle. I live in Baltimore City. I am writing in support of **SB 245--Public Safety--Immigration Enforcement Agreements--Prohibition.**

I support SB 245 largely as a result of my years of working with the immigrant community of Baltimore. I have learned to appreciate the contribution made to our City and the country by the people I have worked with and contacted through my professional educational involvement. I realize how, after a heart-wrenching decision made to leave a home country, they dedicated themselves to improving their family's education, economy and contribution to those around them. I find them to be generous to their neighbors and acquaintances, loving to their families, and appreciative of anything they receive from this society.

I support SB 245 because it makes us ALL safer. When people know that police officers will cooperate and/or report to ICE, they are less likely to report crimes, whether they are a victim or a witness. This undermines public safety for all of us. Which of us would not be filled with fear at the idea of being treated personally as we've seen our countrymen treated in the last few weeks?

Cooperating with agreements such as 287(g) may put us in a situation of racial profiling, discrimination and wrongful detention--or, as we've seen on our television screens, violence. Programs like this also divert public resources away from protecting communities.

Prohibiting these agreements would encourage the trust of immigrants and those who look like they might be immigrants and improve the safety of all of us.

I therefore ask for your favorable vote for SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marilyn Carlisle
1238 Ramblewood Rd
Baltimore, MD 21239

SB245 Sample Testimony UNITE HERE L7.pdf
Uploaded by: Marisha Leiblum
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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,

UNITE HERE Local 7 offers favorable testimony in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

UNITE HERE Local 7 is a labor union that represents thousands of hotel, gaming, and food service workers throughout Maryland. Our union advocates for good, family-sustaining jobs for hospitality workers.

At its core, **SB 245** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

Our members are very concerned about their communities, neighbors, and their safety. Yet ICE actions compromise community safety and create fear. Our Union's mission is to help working people – regardless of their immigration status – to find their courage and advocate for better working conditions. The presence of ICE in our communities undermines that mission and creates a chilling effect for our organizing efforts.

Many of our African American members' families migrated from the South to the North of this country – at times in violation of the law –to seek a place to raise their families free from physical assault and forced labor. Our migrant neighbors so too are seeking a safe future for their families. Collaborating with ICE is standing on the wrong side of history.

Further, our members' children attend diverse schools across the state. Many of our members have lived in this country for generations, but their children have friends who have not. Our members do not want to see their children's friends suddenly deported, or avoiding attending school out of fear.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

For these reasons, **UNITE HERE Local 7** urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

SB245 Testimony_kaiser.pdf
Uploaded by: Mary Kaiser
Position: FAV

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 Mary Elizabeth Kaiser, and I am a resident of Clarksville in Howard County. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I have been horrified by the immigration enforcement (ICE) events of the past year. The initial atrocities of mistakenly detaining Kilmar Abrego Garcia and deporting him to the infamous CECOT prison in El Salvador and the President Trump Administration of the United States Government refusing for months to secure his release and return to the United States which was then followed by retaliation on Abrego Garcia by the US government. Then there were the raids of homes and apprehension of immigrants with green cards to CECOT. There was and is still is an ongoing practice of ambushing law abiding immigrants as they appear for their immigration court hearings. Then there was the escalation of events in Chicago where agents rappelled from a helicopter in the dark of night to raid an apartment complex, knocked down doors and hurled flash-bang grenades. They arrested 37 immigrants, most of them Venezuelans, who authorities say were in the country illegally. A ProPublica investigation, however, has found little evidence to support the government's claims. Agents also zip-tied and, for several hours, detained many (partially dressed) U.S. citizens outside in the cold. Then in an unbelievable (if it weren't for the eyewitness videos) escalation of ICE actions, an ICE agent (who was under no physical threat) deliberately shot a peaceful, law abiding US citizen in the head! Instead of investigating the agent who shot the United States citizen, Renee Good, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Attorney General's office are defending this action and making claims in clear contradiction to events portrayed on video.

These are horrific events and miscarriages of justice by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents who are NOT protecting US citizens and are depicted detaining individuals who can clearly be heard yelling in videos that they are US citizens or that they are in this country legally. ICE is making the United States America, and that includes Maryland, dangerous for citizens and those here legally. Legal immigrants and citizens alike are afraid to take their children to school, buy groceries, go to church for fear of being ambushed and illegally detained, deported, or shot in the head. We cannot cooperate or sanction this behavior. It endangers our friends, families, and neighbors. ICE creates fear in our communities and destabilizes neighborhoods. They make individuals less likely to report crimes they may witness out of fear of repercussions – even when they are the victim. My life and the lives of my family are less safe due to the presence of ICE in Maryland.

I call on the State of Maryland to protect its citizens and residents and to prohibit the cooperation of state agencies with immigration enforcement as outlined in SB245

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary Elizabeth Kaiser

Testimony SB 245 Jan 2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Mary Margaret Dineen
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 20, 2026

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

My name is Mary Margaret Dineen, and I am a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

As someone who has had a career in international development and the honor and privilege of living and working in numerous countries to support communities in building democratic institutions and practices, I know the importance of being able to trust that government agencies and actors will follow the rule of law. This unfortunately is less and less the case in with certain law enforcement agents acting unlawfully in our communities. Prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements will help mitigate and reduce their ability to act.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I am aware of neighbors and visitors in my community being sought and snatched off the street and from their homes in horrible ways. It is hurting families and businesses in the area.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Margaret Dineen

SB0245 -Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Ag

Uploaded by: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

Position: FAV

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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ASHANTI MARTINEZ, CHAIR
GABRIEL ACEVERO, VICE-CHAIR
DENI TAVERAS, TREASURER
JOE VOGEL, SECRETARY
JASON A. AVILA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Senator Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 1/20/2026
RE: SB0245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

The MLLC supports SB0245 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of SB0245.

SB0245 addresses a critical concern for Latino communities throughout Maryland. Immigration enforcement agreements, particularly the 287(g) program authorized under federal law, to deputize local law enforcement to act as immigration agents. This blurring of roles has severe consequences for public safety and community trust. When local police are perceived as immigration enforcement officers, immigrant families become reluctant to report crimes, cooperate with investigations, or seek help in emergencies. This silence creates dangerous conditions where criminal activity can flourish unchecked, undermining the safety of all Maryland residents.[1]

Additionally, Latino communities bear a disproportionate burden under these enforcement agreements. Families live in constant fear of routine interactions with law enforcement escalating into immigration consequences, even when they are victims of crime or witnesses to serious offenses. This fear extends beyond those who are undocumented, affecting entire communities where parents worry about school drop-offs, workers hesitate to report wage theft or workplace safety violations, and victims of domestic violence remain trapped in dangerous situations rather than risk contact with authorities.[2]

The fiscal impact on local jurisdictions cannot be ignored. Immigration enforcement diverts precious law enforcement resources away from investigating serious crimes and addressing community safety priorities. Local agencies lack the specialized training and resources necessary for immigration enforcement, and taxpayers bear the costs of detaining individuals for civil immigration violations rather than criminal matters.[3]

Maryland has consistently demonstrated leadership in protecting immigrant families and fostering inclusive communities. At a time when federal immigration policy grows increasingly aggressive, SB0245 represents a necessary clarification of the proper roles of state and federal government. Immigration enforcement is fundamentally a federal responsibility, and Maryland's law enforcement agencies should focus their limited resources on the public safety priorities that matter most to our communities.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on SB0245.

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[1] Local Law Enforcement Must Focus on Keeping Marylanders Safe
[2] Immigrant Families Express Worry as They Prepare for Policy Changes
[3] Federal-Local Partnerships on Immigration Law Enforcement

SB 245 Ban 287g PJC FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Matt Hill
Position: FAV

C. Matthew Hill
Attorney
Public Justice Center
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Baltimore, Maryland 21201
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SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Hearing before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on Jan. 22, 2026

Position: FAVORABLE

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty law firm which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. The PJC provides advice and representation to clients with low-income, advocates before legislatures and government agencies, and collaborates with community and advocacy organizations; we actively incorporate anti-racism and racial equity goals into our advocacy work. Our organization frequently represents and partners with immigrants and immigrant communities impacted by this legislation. For example, we represent immigrant clients in eviction cases and cases seeking to hold their landlord accountable for dangerous conditions of disrepair. We represent immigrant workers whose employers are paying less than minimum wage, denying overtime benefits, or unlawfully classifying them as contractors. We also represent the children of immigrants who have been unfairly excluded from educational opportunities and immigrant residents who have been wrongfully denied public benefits.

Public Justice Center strongly supports SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition. At its core, SB 245 is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

ICE activities are having a cruel and inhumane impact on our clients – compromising public safety, disrupting services, and creating a culture of fear and distrust among our immigrant-clients. For example, our Housing team frequently represents tenants who need to hold their landlord accountable for dangerous housing conditions and predatory practices. Landlords of our immigrant clients have threatened repeatedly to call ICE if our clients defend against the landlord's wrongful eviction case or seek to hold the landlord accountable for dangerous housing defects. If we cannot assure our immigrant clients that local law enforcement will not cooperate with ICE by disrupting their right to due process under the law, our clients are less likely to attend court – in which local law

enforcement officers are always present – to defend against a wrongful eviction case or to hold the landlord accountable for dangerous conditions of disrepair. When our immigrant clients do not hold their landlords accountable in court for fear of ICE enforcement, the entire community loses too. When renters do not defend court cases and are subsequently evicted, the state pays more. Preventing eviction saves the state money by reducing homelessness and state-funded safety net costs related to shelter, educating students experiencing homelessness, health care, foster care, decreased incarceration, and the economic impacts of increased employment and income stability. Additionally, when renter-immigrants are terrified of speaking up for themselves because of the potential for ICE enforcement, the whole neighborhood suffers from the blight and decay perpetuated by negligent property owners.

In our representation of immigrant-workers, our clients will be less like to report an employer who paid them below minimum wage if they think that engage with local law enforcement could result in ICE enforcement actions. We have seen firsthand that fewer workers are willing to come forward and participate in wage theft cases because they fear drawing attention to themselves in the current climate of ICE enforcement. When one worker's rights go unenforced, it weakens the rights of all workers. Unscrupulous employers and landlords will exploit these fears to prevent workers and tenants from speaking up for their rights.

SB 245 also provides important protections for clients of the PJC's Education Stability Project, which advances equity in public education by combatting practices that disproportionately push Black and brown children, and children with disabilities, out of school. The threat and fear of immigration enforcement impede equitable access to school and infringes upon the fundamental right of all Maryland children to receive a public education regardless of immigration status, which is enshrined in our state constitution. SB 245 is necessary to protect that right. Maryland law enacted in 2025 requires every local public school system to adopt an immigration enforcement policy consistent with guidance from Attorney General Anthony Brown. These local policies vary and may require coordination with local law enforcement in jurisdictions where law enforcement have entered 287(g) agreements with ICE, such as Carroll County Public Schools' revised policy passed in January 2026.

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

Public Justice Center asks that the Committee **issue a FAVORABLE report on SB 245.**

The Public Justice Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and as such does not endorse or oppose any political party or candidate for elected office.

Strong Support for SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Mayor Celina Benitez
Position: FAV

Office of The Mayor Celina Benitez

1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712 Telephone: (301) 985-6585 MountRainierMD.org

Tuesday, January 20, 2026
RE: Strong Support for SB 245

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Mount Rainier, I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of Senate Bill 245**, legislation that would prohibit the State and local governments from entering into immigration enforcement agreements and require the termination of existing agreements by July 1, 2026. This bill establishes clear and consistent boundaries between local public safety responsibilities and federal immigration enforcement, ensuring that local resources remain focused on community safety and well-being

Mount Rainier believes that public safety is strongest when residents feel safe engaging with local government and law enforcement without fear. Immigration enforcement agreements, such as those authorized under federal law and memoranda of understanding, can undermine that trust by blurring the lines between local policing and federal immigration functions. SB 245 appropriately clarifies that local and state agencies should not be placed in the role of enforcing civil immigration law, allowing officers to focus on their core mission of protecting residents and preventing crime.

This issue is especially important for Mount Rainier, a diverse and welcoming community. Our City's ability to deliver effective public safety services depends on strong relationships, open communication, and community cooperation. When residents fear that interactions with local government could lead to immigration consequences, they are less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek assistance in emergencies. SB 245 supports a public safety model rooted in trust, inclusion, and collaboration, values that are fundamental to Mount Rainier's community-oriented approach.

In addition, the bill provides important statewide consistency by prohibiting all units of local government and their agents from entering into immigration enforcement agreements and by setting a clear deadline for terminating existing agreements

This clarity protects local governments from uncertainty, legal risk, and resource strain, while reaffirming Maryland's commitment to fair and effective public safety practices. For these reasons, the City of Mount Rainier urges the Committee to issue a **favorable report on Senate Bill 245** and advance this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership on public safety and community trust. Please feel free to contact me at 301-985-6585 if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Celina Benitez

Mayor Celina Benitez, City of Mount Rainier

SB 245_FAV_MGood.pdf
Uploaded by: Megan Good
Position: FAV

FAVORABLE Testimony

Senate Bill 245

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Chairperson and esteemed members of the Committee,

In my capacity as a resident of Maryland and foster parent to unaccompanied minors, I strongly urge you to **Support** Senate Bill 245.

Cooperation agreements like 287(g) agreements undermine public safety. When law enforcement officers act in concert with an immigration enforcement agency whose primary concern is detaining as many people as possible, *not* promoting public safety, the result is that residents who have accents or are racial minorities cannot safely seek the aid of local law enforcement without facing a risk of being detained themselves.

And bad actors know this. When I served as a clerk in a Circuit Court in Maryland, I observed cases where immigrants were targeted for rape and armed robberies, at least partially because they were more vulnerable. Fortunately, the victims in these cases could go to the Baltimore City Police without fear of being racially profiled, and with their cooperation, the individuals responsible were detained. **This would not have happened under a 287(g) agreement.** I know this to be true because, when a friend was recently assaulted and I was the first person available to assist her, the first thought that crossed my mind was "is it safe to call the police?" It was, so we did, and her attacker was promptly located. **However, if we were in a 287(g) county,** and my friend was a racial minority, *regardless of her legal status*, **I would not have called for help**.

Additionally, as a temporary caregiver of a Latina child, I cannot emphasize how critical it was to her wellbeing that we lived in a county without a 287(g) agreement. When we saw police activity, I could confidently re-assure her that the officers were working to keep us safe, and that the person being arrested was not being arrested just because of their race or legal status. I was able to reduce her fear and anxiety by informing her that, at least in Baltimore City, the police were not the same as ICE.

It is the role and duty of state and local police to serve and protect the residents of their jurisdictions. To do this effectively, they must build trust with all of us, including those of us who are the most marginalized. All residents of Maryland should be able to seek the aid and protection of an officer in the state without fearing that they will be racially profiled and asked about their immigration status, because this is *not* the role of local police. And **our police should not be detaining individuals who pose no safety threat to our communities**.

I call on all Maryland lawmakers to **strongly support** this legislation that prioritizes the safety and wellbeing of our Maryland communities.

Signed,
Megan Good

SB0245_MelissaGoemann_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Melissa Goemann
Position: FAV

January 20, 2025

Melissa Coretz Goemann
Silver Spring, MD 20901

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: Melissa Coretz Goemann

My name is Melissa Coretz Goemann and I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

My family and I have lived in Silver Spring for over a decade and are active members of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation. As the daughter of an immigrant, protections for our immigrant neighbors are of the utmost importance to me. My mother and her family came here as refugees from Czechoslovakia in the 1940s to escape the Nazis. My mother was only twelve years old at the time and she and her family spoke no English. With the help of a supportive community, she was able to surmount this challenge, graduate from college, and have a long career as an elementary school teacher. My mother has always been grateful to this country for the opportunity to survive and thrive. That opportunity is why so many immigrants have come to the United States.

Scripture teaches us that when strangers reside within our land we must not harm them; we must love the stranger as we love ourselves, because we were once strangers in the land of Egypt (Leviticus 19:33-34). All people should be able to live in this state (and country) in safety and without fear. But fear is stoked in the immigrant community when we allow the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to create agreements (known as 287(g) agreements) with local law enforcement to deputize local police to act as ICE agents. These agreements enable law enforcement to detain people based only on their immigration status. 287(g) agreements have made Black and Brown communities, in particular, the targets of racial profiling and egregious brutality by ICE and the local police that work with them.

By voting in favor of SB0245, we can keep Maryland law enforcement from working with ICE to stoke fear in our immigrant neighbors and assault and terrorize them. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.**

Testimony of Michael DeLong In support of SB 245-B

Uploaded by: Michael DeLong

Position: FAV

Michael Marciarille DeLong
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Testimony in Support of SB 245-Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements–Prohibition

January 20th, 2026

To: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Michael DeLong and I am a resident of District 20. I strongly urge your support for SB 245, which would protect immigrants by banning 287(g) agreements with Immigration, Customers, and Enforcement (ICE).

Over the past ten years I became active in local organizing and advocacy and until recently I served as President of the Montgomery County Young Democrats. I am a member of the Reform Jewish synagogue Temple Shalom, serve on my synagogue's Tikkun Olam Committee, and have participated in many Jewish organizations and events.

Montgomery County has large numbers of immigrants–they are our colleagues, co-workers, neighbors, and family members. Almost one third of our county's population was born outside the United States. Many of these immigrants are undocumented and contribute to our economy and society. Other counties also have lots of immigrants who work and live just like everyone else; often these immigrants have left poverty and oppression and are seeking the American Dream, trying to make a better life for themselves.

But currently many of these immigrants are afraid and at serious risk of being abused or mistreated. One of these reasons are the 287(g) agreements that several Maryland counties have with ICE. These agreements give local law enforcement the power to enforce immigration law, which normally they cannot do. Under the agreements, police officers can identify, arrest, and prosecute undocumented immigrants. Often the residents are imprisoned until ICE comes and deports them.

These agreements are cruel and harmful to immigrants–plus they harm crimefighting by scaring people, who are then unwilling to go to the police for help. Currently ICE, under the direction of President Trump and Stephen Miller, is behaving like a lawless agency. It has arrested and imprisoned people without due process, denied immigrants their basic rights, tortured people at secret facilities, and shot and killed Americans. Many of the immigrants whom ICE has kidnapped are upstanding members of their community, have lived in the United States for decades, and have done nothing wrong.

I support efforts to fight crime, especially violent crime. However, ICE is operating like a secret police force, with masked thugs beating and kidnapping people. There is no rule of law, no accountability, and no efforts to investigate abuses and hold ICE agents accountable. Trump

administration officials have refused to take any action, and instead praise the agents who committed these crimes, insisting that they did nothing wrong.

Under these circumstances, no Maryland county should cooperate with ICE. In order to protect the freedom and lives of their residents, counties should refuse any cooperation with the agency, and consider arresting and prosecuting its agents for kidnapping. The 287g agreements, which are currently in force in Frederick County and other counties, help perpetuate these abuses and harm innocent people. They also do nothing to genuinely fight crime or keep communities safe. A comparative analysis of crime statistics across three Maryland counties found that 287(g) programs didn't make people safer.

SB 245 prohibits Maryland, county governments, county sheriffs, or any other agencies or police from entering into 287(g) agreements and requires that existing agreements be ended on or before July 1st, 2026. This bill will help protect law-abiding immigrants against ICE kidnappings and abuses. As Martin Luther King Jr said, "noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good." And just as the Hebrew midwives refused to cooperate with Pharaoh in his oppression of the Israelites, we should refuse to cooperate with ICE right now.

I urge a favorable report on SB 245. Please contact me at michaeldelong94@gmail.com with any questions.

Menglish 287g testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Michael English
Position: FAV

February 22, 2026

Michael English
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

TESTIMONY ON SB245- POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

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

My name is Michael English. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB245, as it would ban counties from entering into 287(g) agreements with the federal government

We are seeing in Minneapolis what kind of destruction and harassment can be brought about by overly aggressive immigration enforcement, which is sadly the norm under the current presidential administration. That makes it even more incumbent on Maryland to be as much of a safe haven as possible for our immigrant community, and 287g agreements run counter to this value by their very nature.

As opposed to other forms of local cooperation with ICE, 287(g) turns local jails and police into extensions of ICE -- all at local taxpayers' expense. Added to the Immigration and Nationality Act in 1996 under the "tough on crime" agenda, 287(g) was designed to harm Black and Brown communities.

This isn't an academic concern either. No fewer than eight Maryland counties have entered into a 287(g) agreement. The state needs to act to keep people in these counties from being harmed, and to prevent other counties in Maryland from doing the same thing.

Moreover, in our current challenging budget environment, Maryland counties have to pay staffing costs and open themselves up to costly lawsuits by entering into these agreements. It's just bad all around

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB245

Testimony on Senate Bill SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Michael Zanchelli
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 20, 2026

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

My name is Michael Zanchelli, and I am a resident of Mount Rainier**,** Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in communities and undermine public safety for everyone. There is a robust body of evidence that demonstrates when people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Over the last year, I have witnessed multiple abductions of community members at the hands of ICE. I have seen the devastation from neighbors when they learn their loved ones have been detained. Over the last few months, we have seen the brutality and lawlessness DHS, ICE, and U.S. Park Police have wrought on our communities. When others document within their legal rights, they risk being harassed, beaten, and detained. My neighbors and friends who are not white are scared; they know they can be subject to arbitrary stops and detention, sometimes for days at a time.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Prohibiting 287(g) slows down this lawlessness and prevents more racial profiling at the hands of law enforcement. It would maintain and allow for more trust between communities and state law enforcement. That keeps everyone safe.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Michael Zanchelli

SB0245_MichelleFeit_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Michelle Feit
Position: FAV

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Michelle Feit
Silver Spring, MD 20901

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: Michelle Feit

My name is Michelle Feit, and I am a resident of District 20 in the Montgomery Knolls neighborhood of Silver Spring. **I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.**

I would like to thank the Chair, my District 20 Senator Will Smith, for his longstanding commitment and support of ending 287(g) agreements in Maryland. I grew up in Columbia and attended the University of Maryland for both undergraduate and graduate school, and after living in the District of Columbia for several years I am thrilled that we have found such a wonderful community in Silver Spring in which to put down roots and raise our almost 2-year-old child.

The biggest threat to our community right now is ICE. They are terrorizing immigrant Marylanders, particularly in our neighborhood, which has become one of the most targeted areas in the state for ICE enforcement. It often feels helpless watching ICE abduct our neighbors and community members, so it is imperative that our state legislature takes whatever actions are within our control to protect our community members.

One such action is ending 287(g) agreements, which allow local law enforcement to deputize local police to act as ICE agents, enabling them to detain people based only on their immigration status. The number of Maryland counties with 287(g) agreements has grown from 3 to 8 just in the last year, as local sheriffs demand to collaborate with the Trump administration. While I am glad that Montgomery County is not one of them, our neighbors should be able to travel freely throughout the state, particularly to neighboring Frederick County, without additional fear of being profiled and detained.

While prohibiting local and state 287(g) agreements does not stop ICE agents themselves, it is essential that the General Assembly takes this step to prevent local collaboration with this brutality. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.**

SB0245_MichelleMarkey_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Michelle Markey
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: 1/22/2026

Michelle Markey
Baltimore, MD 21211

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: Michelle Markey

OPENING: **My name is Michelle Markey. I am a resident of District 40. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition Act.**

Many thanks to Sens. Smith, Ferguson, and Young for sponsoring this bill. I am a licensed social worker and therapist, where I provide mental/behavioral health support to medically underserved populations.

I believe it is critical that anyone who lives within our borders, regardless of national origin or language, is able to live safely and without fear, as well as access potentially life-saving public safety resources/services. Agencies that carry out immigration action should be kept separate from services that protect public safety. Currently, many of the people I see through my work are seeking treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder due to being victims of domestic violence, assault, and other crimes; many have reported not calling 911 for help due to fear of detention or deportation if they were to do so. Having members of our population living in fear not only from the crimes they have experienced, but also having nowhere to turn for help or safety, corrodes the safety of all and contributes to an environment of impunity.

Furthermore, as a tax-paying resident of Maryland, I do not support use of local and state funds to collaborate with an agency that is committing egregious and unconstitutional abuses and terrorizing our neighbors, and which has also been freshly allocated with billions of federal dollars to carry out these actions.

I would like to reiterate my favorable position on this bill, which will protect the rights and safety of all Marylanders. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.**

Testimony 2026 SB0245 287g Mazurek.pdf
Uploaded by: Michelle Mazurek
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

Michelle Mazurek
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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: Michelle Mazurek

My name is Michelle Mazurek. I am a resident of Silver Spring, in District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I am an MCPS parent, a professor at the University of Maryland, and a member of Temple Emanuel synagogue in Kensington.

Immigrants are my co-workers, neighbors, friends, and the parents of other students at my daughter's middle school (Eastern). They are important and valued members of our community in Montgomery County and throughout Maryland. The current environment – with neighbors being threatened and even kidnapped – is terrifying and infuriating. 287(g) agreements make local law enforcement into enablers and perpetrators of ICE's brutal attacks. Ending these agreements – and prohibiting new ones – is not nearly enough, but it is a critical and necessary first step toward protecting our neighbors and our communities.

When local law enforcement resources are used to assist ICE, an already terrible situation only gets worse, and more trust that is essential to our community is broken – frightened residents stop calling for help, stop using public resources, stop reporting abuse, and stop seeking essential care. Maryland must do better to stand up for our neighbors and our values. SB0245 will end local cooperation with ICE, and limit one source of danger and fear.

As a computer science professor who has spent 15 years researching and teaching digital security and privacy, I study professionally the importance of privacy rights to healthy societies, and the detrimental chilling effects that privacy violations can have on communities and individuals. SB0245 will protect privacy by preventing unnecessary collection of immigration status information, making it easier for immigrants and their families to participate in public life.

As an educator, I know that fear and stress make it very difficult for my students to do their best work, to learn, and to achieve their educational goals. My daughter's middle school has a large population of immigrants and children of immigrants, and I know the fear that immigrant families are living with, which impacts people's willingness to send their children to school as well as their ability to access food assistance, social services, and medical care. It is heartbreaking to see these effects in my community. Further, as the granddaughter of immigrants, refugees, and Holocaust survivors, I benefited from the lives my grandparents were able to build

in the U.S. They started their lives over, starting with almost nothing, in the 1930s and 40s. Today's immigrants deserve the same chance to build new lives here, raise their families, and contribute to our community, and they deserve to do so without fear.

With my **strongest conviction, I respectfully urge the Committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.**

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAVSB245_.pdf
Uploaded by: Michelle Zelaya
Position: FAV

MARYLAND CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Jan 22nd 2026
SB245
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of **Senate Bill 245**. The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

The Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition prevents the State of Maryland, local governments, county sheriffs, and any state or local agency or official from entering into immigration enforcement agreements and requires the termination of any such agreements currently in place. At a time when communities are experiencing heightened fear, threats to public safety, and deep mistrust of institutions, it is critical that policy decisions center the real needs of Marylanders and the well-being of our communities.

Senate Bill 245 aligns with foundational principles of human dignity, solidarity, and the protection of the most vulnerable among us. As Pope Leo reminds us when discussing immigration enforcement, we must "look for ways of treating people humanely, treating people with the dignity that they have." Immigrants—particularly undocumented individuals—often live under constant fear and uncertainty, which can prevent them from seeking essential services such as healthcare, education, and legal assistance. This fear does not make our communities safer; it weakens them.

This legislation affirms the inherent dignity of every person and promotes a society rooted in care rather than exclusion. Solidarity calls us to stand with immigrants as our brothers and sisters, ensuring they are met with compassion and fairness instead of fear and marginalization. Our commitment to the common good further underscores the need for policies that build trust between immigrant communities and local institutions, rather than policies that push families into the shadows out of fear of deportation.

From a policy perspective, **Senate Bill 245** strengthens social cohesion by ensuring that all Marylanders—regardless of immigration status—can participate fully and safely in their communities without the threat of unjust enforcement. By upholding justice and human dignity, this legislation reflects our shared moral responsibility to protect the most vulnerable and to foster a society grounded in compassion, trust, and fairness. No individual or family should be forced to live in constant fear.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference urges a favorable report on **Senate Bill 245.**

Testimony SB 245 Flamholzj an. 20 2026.pdf
Uploaded by: mindie flamholz
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY ON Senate Bill – FAVORABLE

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smit, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mindie Flamholz. I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland and have lived in this county for over 40 years and in Maryland for 72 ½ of my 73 years.

I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition – to prohibit the State of Maryland, any local government, county sheriff, or their agents/employees from entering into new agreements with the federal government to enforce civil immigration law. As you know, Immigration enforcement agreements include contracts, intergovernmental service agreements, and memorandums of understanding (e.g., 287(g) agreements).

As a Jewish woman whose families were victims of pogroms and of the Holocaust, I can only imagine the current fears in "immigrant" communities, whether here legally or illegally. I know what it is like as a Jew, personally, to have experienced antisemitism in my lifetime, just for being a Jew. And though my looks may "look" Jewish, I do not stand out as much as those with darker skin, whose native languages and speech are "different", just as my family's were when they came to this country or how they looked or sounded in their own countries of origin.

My heart aches for "immigrants" - the vast majority of whom are law-abiding, who contribute to the betterment of our communities, state, and nation, who pay taxes and who work hard to become "American", while choosing to celebrate their cultures, the way I celebrate my culture and religion, make matzah ball soup, have Italian friends who celebrate their culture though food and language and Romanian friends with theirs, and others, as well - many of whom still speak their own languages as they and their children become bilingual. (as an aside, being bilingual is better for our brains!)

My heart aches that our government isn't more actively pursuing those in our communities who look "fine (white)" and are committing atrocities on every level, whether rape, abuse, neglect, illegal money transactions, money laundering, tax evasion, corporate fraud, neglectful landlords, drunken driving, those who can buy off people, etc. Why aren't our country, our states, counties, and cities going after CRIMINALS of all colors of skin?

I don't like giving power to people who never even asked for or even want the kind of power being given to them through 287g - our local law enforcement officers who joined the forces and take pride in serving members of their own and nearby communities, communities with people of all colors, religions, etc. etc.

And, I know that if I needed the police, local law enforcement, I would not hesitate to reach out to them. Though, I do at times wonder if my being Jewish affects how they perceive me in any negative way. Importantly, I DO NOT FEAR reaching out to them in an emergency the way "immigrants" do

now. How can “immigrants” feel safe reporting a crime, seeking help or even cooperating as witnesses? How can they feel safe anywhere in the presence of an officer of local law? How can public safety be maintained and restored as/where necessary without trust?

My family members were racially profiled, detained, scared to go to school, jobs, and religious institutions, forced to leave their homes, taken to camps, slaughtered, with “lucky ones” surviving, even though many didn’t even consider it that since they lost so many precious loved ones – young children, their adolescents, grandchildren, spouses, siblings, parents, grandparents, friends, etc. This is exactly what is happening to the families of those arrested by ICE, the majority of whom have done nothing wrong. Just for being “different”. The way my family members were.

I know immigrant families which have been broken up and have heard the horror stories of all kinds. And heard the fears expressed. All one needs to do is ask. And if someone feels safe enough to answer, the answers are real, and heart-wrenching. Just as were the stories told by survivors of pogroms and the Holocaust and of all traumas.

Please, let local law enforcement do the jobs for which they were hired. Let them protect our communities and provide the resources we need, the security we need to know and to TRUST they are there for us when they are needed and not assisting ICE, not destabilizing our communities with fear and unwarranted arrests, not out tracking and capturing people who did/do NOTHING wrong.

Our local law enforcement officers are knowledgeable and are savvy about the residents of their communities. They do not need ICE to protect their communities. (More funding for better schools, health and medical care, reliable transportation, quality food, affordable housing, social services, etc. -yes! That can help them!) NOT FUNDING FOR ICE And their activities.

I, therefore, respectfully and with admiration for the positions to which you were elected and which you hold for the betterment of our state, urge you to issue - FAVORABLE on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this deeply important bill,

Mindie Flamholz

SB#0245 Public Safety-Immigration Enforcemtn Agree

Uploaded by: Miner Brown

Position: FAV

January 20, 2026

SB #0245 **FAVORABLE**

Title: Public Safety- Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition

Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, William C. Smith, Jr.

Sponsored by: Senators, Smith, Ferguson, and Lewis Young

This testimony is written in strong support of Senate Bill #0245, Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Probation.

My name is Miner L. (Moe) Brown, a 37-year resident of MD & District 11B. I am a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver Awardee, 1st Life Time Achievement Awardee from Irvine Nature Center, a Red Hat for Habitat for Humanity in Baltimore (9 ½ yrs.), an original CASA Ally, and an active member of the Social Justice Committee at our local congregation.

We are all aware of the 287(g) agreements that have grown in number this year as some local sheriffs have demanded to collaborate with the diabolical actions of our National "leadership."

Some current facts: ICE doesn't pay for 287(G) enforcement. In Maryland counties cover all staffing costs and at least one county, Frederick, has settled costly lawsuits over their unlawful hold and due process violations. In Maryland, from 2016-to 2023, 92% of the 287(g) detainers were for people with no criminal conviction or only the least serious "level 3" conviction. Nationally, over 3/4ths of all 287 (g) detainers were for people with no criminal convictions.

Our racially diverse immigrant friends and neighbors and even American citizens are illegally and unconstitutionally under attack by ICE. In most instances, they are initially met by masked, unidentified men and women using unnecessary force who come at them, in numbers, from unmarked vans and black cars. These immigrant friends, neighbors, and co-workers are being inhumanely handled, arrested, detained, immediately separated from family, deported, and even killed with no regard for their rights as human-beings. This cannot continue to be allowed! Thank you for beginning steps to pass and implement this new law as soon as possible.

MiriamEisenstein_SB245_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Miriam Eisenstein
Position: FAV

Miriam Eisenstein
Chevy Chase, MD

TESTIMONY ON SB245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Miriam Eisenstein

My name is Miriam Eisenstein. I am a resident of District 16 in Montgomery County. I am a retired attorney and an active member of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation. I am submitting this testimony in support of the SB245 prohibiting counties from entering into Section 287(b) contracts with ICE.

Leviticus 19:33-34 says “The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native- born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.” My grandparents were born in Eastern Europe. They came to this country late in the 19th century when we did not yet have harsh and restrictive laws against immigration. Having arrived here, they were permitted to live in peace and to become American citizens. Had this not been the case, I would not be here today, for they undoubtedly would have perished in pogroms or, had they survived, would have become victims of Hitler’s murderous plan. Today, our government might well have hounded them unmercifully and sought to deport them back to the persecutors’ hands.

Today, people who have fled to our shores to find safety are facing unwarranted arrest - even if they are here seeking asylum or, in some cases, even if they are citizens. The "foreigners residing among” us are being subjected to violence, separation of families, and deportation- without hearings - to countries where imprisonment is brutal and their lives may be in danger. Our local officials should not cooperate in this unjust scheme. On the contrary, they should be prohibited from doing so. One step in that direction would be to pass SB245 to deny counties the right to contract with ICE to act as their agents.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB245.

Written Testimony SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Miriam Klapka
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY FOR SB245

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Presented to the Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

FAVORABLE

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

My name is Miriam Klapka, and I reside in St. Mary's County. I am writing in support of SB245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I support the prohibition of immigration enforcement agreements because they erode public trust in local law enforcement.

The community should be able to trust our local law enforcement: to interact with officers to report a crime, to provide a witness statement, to ask for help.

But in our current environment, an immigration enforcement agreement between our local law enforcement and DHS can cause fear and apprehension. Community members may be afraid that contact with local law enforcement will result in DHS attention.

It is understandable that people are fearful. We know that people may be detained on the slimmest of reasons; i.e., language, job, perceived ethnicity. We've also seen many news clips of aggressive, and in some cases, unlawful tactics being used to detain individuals.

Fear erodes trust and confidence and impedes cooperation. This situation can impact not only public safety, but also the local economy, and education.

I strongly support this bill, to prohibit immigration enforcement agreements, and to terminate any existing immigration enforcement agreements.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **FAVORABLE REPORT** on **SB245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kraft-TestimonySB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Miriam Kraft
Position: FAV

Thursday, January 22

Miriam Kraft
Baltimore, MD 21224

TESTIMONY ON SB#0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Miriam Kraft

My name is Miriam Kraft. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

As a member of Beth Am Synagogue and the Canton Community Association's anti-racism committee, both in Baltimore City, I have a strong sense of justice, instilled in me by my family and my faith. I believe it is unjust not to provide due process, to separate families, and to harass and arrest people based on skin color and other immaterial grounds. I do not want to see our state and local law enforcement become an extension of unjust Federal actors through 287(g) and other agreements. Thus, I support passage of SB0245 because it takes an important step in making sure that Maryland does not enable the brutal tactics of the current Federal authorities.

The Bible says, "Justice, justice shall you pursue" (Deut. 16:11). The Talmud (the Jewish commentary on Biblical writings) explains that the word "justice" is repeated because it is not just the *ends* of justice that should be pursued, but the *means* as well. The 287(g) agreements work against those means by extending the use of harsh tactics with little regard for citizenship, family status, or other relevant factors. My neighborhood is adjacent to one with a large concentration of Latino residents as well as Latino markets and restaurants. Recently, these business owners have seen a drop in customers, who are afraid to leave their homes as ICE activity increases in the city. Attendance at church and school has suffered as well.

As a native Marylander, I am proud of the moral leadership of my state regarding immigration. Passing this bill will maintain that stature by preventing state and local governments from becoming an arm of a demonstrably unjust system. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.**

TESTIMONY FOR SB0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Monica O'Connor
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY FOR SB0245
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0245. I am a Maryland resident, and importantly a concerned citizen ashamed and horrified by the antics of the federal immigration forces terrorizing the public. Maryland must take a stand and prohibit state and local law enforcement from assisting agents in federal immigration enforcement activities. The bill seeks to ensure that state and local resources are not used to enforce federal immigration laws, thereby protecting the rights and safety of all residents, regardless of their immigration status. Additionally, the bill prohibits the state, local governments, county sheriffs, and their agents from entering into immigration enforcement agreements with federal authorities (287(g) agreements) while mandating the termination of any existing agreements by July 1, 2026.

By limiting the involvement of state and local law enforcement in federal immigration enforcement, the bill aims to build trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, encouraging cooperation and reporting of crimes. This can lead to safer communities overall. Furthermore, the bill ensures that state and local resources are focused on public safety priorities rather than federal immigration enforcement, promoting a more efficient and just use of resources. There is no jurisdiction in the state that has extra funds to allow their police force to participate in federal immigration enforcement without compromising the services they are obligated to provide.

I support this bill and other legislation that treats law-abiding immigrants with the fairness all Marylanders deserve. I believe that by prioritizing the well-being and rights of every resident, we can foster a more inclusive and secure community for everyone.

I look to elected officials to ensure a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Testimony on SB0245 Nancy Hadad.pdf
Uploaded by: Nancy Hadad
Position: FAV

Revised Testimony (Favorable)

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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 Nancy Hadad, and I am a resident of Gaithersburg, Maryland, in District 17. I write in strong support of Senate Bill 245.

SB 245 is fundamentally a public safety and good-governance measure. Immigration enforcement agreements such as those authorized under Section 287(g) blur the lines between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement in ways that ultimately make communities less safe. When local law enforcement is perceived as an extension of federal immigration authorities, trust erodes—particularly in immigrant communities—and the result is fewer crime reports, fewer witnesses, and less cooperation overall. That is not a theoretical concern; it is a practical one that affects everyone, regardless of immigration status.

I am a second-generation Lebanese American. All four of my grandparents immigrated to the United States between 1910 and 1920. They worked, started small businesses, paid taxes, and built stable lives here. That history shapes my belief that communities are strengthened—not weakened—when people feel safe interacting with government institutions, including the police.

Today, many immigrants and even naturalized citizens in Maryland do not feel that safety. I personally know naturalized citizens who have been advised to carry proof of citizenship at all times out of fear of detention. When lawful residents and citizens feel compelled to live that way, something has gone badly wrong. Public safety depends on people trusting that routine interactions with government will not result in arbitrary or mistaken enforcement actions.

Research consistently shows that immigrants are less likely to commit violent crime than the general population. Yet programs like 287(g) perpetuate fear rather than addressing actual public safety threats. These agreements do not focus local resources on serious or violent crime; instead, they draw local law enforcement into complex civil immigration matters, increasing the risk of racial profiling, wrongful detention, and civil liability—while diverting officers from their core mission of protecting communities.

The consequences ripple outward. Victims and witnesses are less likely to come forward. Parents avoid schools, hospitals, and courthouses. Families lose wage earners without warning, destabilizing households and neighborhoods. None of this makes Maryland safer. In fact, it undermines the very cooperation law enforcement relies on to prevent and solve crime.

SB 245 does not prevent federal authorities from enforcing federal law. It simply establishes clear boundaries, ensuring that Maryland's local law enforcement agencies remain focused on

local public safety rather than acting as agents of federal civil immigration enforcement. That clarity protects communities, law enforcement officers, and taxpayers alike.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hadad
302 Alderwood Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
hadad@dunlopweb.net
(202) 425-5487

SupportForSenateBill-SB-0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Natali Fani-González
Position: FAV

NATALI FANI-GONZÁLEZ
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 6
100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

CHAIR
Economic Development Committee (ECON)

MEMBER
Planning, Housing and Parks Committee (PHP)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

January 20, 2026

The Honorable Will Smith
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Dear Chair Will Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Montgomery County Council is in strong support of SB 245.

This legislation is rooted in sound policy and constitutional principles. Immigration enforcement is, and must remain, a federal responsibility. When local law enforcement is drawn into civil immigration matters, it blurs jurisdictional lines and diverts limited resources away from core public-safety priorities, crime prevention, emergency response, and community trust and cooperation.

Extensive evidence confirms that community trust is essential to public safety. According to the U.S. DOJ, residents are far more likely to report crimes, assist investigators, and seek help when they trust that local police are focused on their safety rather than immigration enforcement. Conversely, where local authorities have been perceived as arms of federal immigration, immigrant communities, including mixed-status families and U.S. citizens, greatly reduce 911 calls, withhold cooperation in domestic-violence cases, and avoid engagement with law enforcement. Those dynamics compromise safety for the entire community.

SB 245 also responds to the fiscal and operational realities facing local governments. Immigration-enforcement agreements such as 287(g) impose substantial costs, training, supervision, detention, and legal liabilities, while federal reimbursement remains limited and uncertain. Moreover, these programs can expose counties and municipalities to civil-rights litigation, reducing public confidence in government.

Crucially, SB 245 does not limit cooperation with federal authorities on serious criminal matters. Local agencies would retain full authority to share information and work jointly with federal officials where appropriate. The legislation draws the line specifically at delegating civil immigration authority, an approach that research and practical experience show does not reduce crime, but rather erodes trust and safety in communities.

NATALI FANI-GONZÁLEZ
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 6
100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

CHAIR
Economic Development Committee (ECON)

MEMBER
Planning, Housing and Parks Committee (PHP)

Finally, let's take a hard look at what's unfolding in American cities since immigration crackdowns began in Los Angeles, spread to Chicago, and now reach Minneapolis. That is not who we are, that is not how we keep communities safe. On the contrary, these actions generate chaos, the oldest tactic in the book used throughout history by dictators to install fear and tighten their grip on power. Local enforcement in our state cannot be part of that.

For these reasons, the Council strongly urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to report SB 245 out favorably. Thank you for your leadership and for advancing policies that enhance public safety, respect constitutional boundaries, and reflect the diverse needs of Maryland communities.

Sincerely,

Natali Fani-González
Montgomery County Council President
Councilmember, District 6
Chair, Economic Development Committee

Testimony in favor of SB0254.pdf
Uploaded by: Natalie Younger
Position: FAV

Written Testimony in Support of SB0254

As a Maryland resident, I strongly support SB0254, which bans 287(g) agreements and prevents ICE from using local law enforcement as their agents. These agreements undermine community trust and compromise public safety by turning local officers into extensions of federal immigration enforcement. This practice creates fear among residents, discourages cooperation with law enforcement, and makes our neighborhoods less safe.

Moreover, 287(g) agreements represent an alarming level of federal and presidential overreach into local governance. Maryland communities should not be subjected to policies that prioritize political agendas over the well-being of our residents. Local law enforcement should focus on protecting and serving—not enforcing federal immigration mandates that tear families apart and erode public confidence.

Passing SB0254 is essential to safeguard our communities, uphold Maryland's autonomy, and ensure that law enforcement remains accountable to the people they serve. I urge the General Assembly to support this bill and stand for safety, justice, and local control.

With Faith and Hope for our Future,

Natalie Younger
Resident of Leonardtown MD

SB245 Testimony_NLesser.pdf
Uploaded by: Natasha Lesser
Position: FAV

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 **Natasha Lesser** and I am a **resident of Baltimore, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I watch in horror as ICE terrorizes the people of Minnesota and elsewhere. This is not immigration enforcement, this is Trump's Gestapo. My mother-in-law escaped the Nazis – masked gestapo like ICE—in 1938 in Lithuania with her family to make a better life here in the United States. That value is what embodies the United States—welcoming others to this land of opportunity. Not harassment and cruelty.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Unless you are an indigenous person or are descendants of people brought here against their will, we are all immigrants here, including Trump, Noem, Vance, and all the other people responsible for the unnecessary cruelty of ICE. Therefore ICE should not be allowed in Maryland—or anywhere in the US for that matter. Let's make Maryland an example of true American values, not of hatred and cruelty and terror.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

I as a proud Marylander and American and as a descendant, like most of us, of people of who have immigrated to the US for a better life, don't support ICE's hateful, cruel, racist, and unnecessary deportation efforts.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Natasha Lesser

MD SB 245_Franklin LEAP_Favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Neill Franklin
Position: FAV

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

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New York, USA

Thomas Schoolcraft
Transitions Coordinator
Minnesota, USA

Chief Thomas Thompson (Ret.)
Ohio, USA

Date: January 20, 2026
Re: SB 245
Position: FAVORABLE

STATEMENT OF
MAJOR STANFORD "NEILL" FRANKLIN, [i]
Maryland State Police (Ret.)
ON BEHALF OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP [ii]

SUBMITTED TO
THE MARYLAND SENATE
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
HON. WILLIAM C. SMITH, JR., CHAIR
HON. JEFF WALDSTREICHER, VICE CHAIR

Testimony - Favorable
SB 245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Distinguished Representatives, on behalf of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP), we support SB 245 and urge you to give it a favorable report because it will:

- Be effective in saving lives;
- Be effective in reducing violent crime;
- Be effective in reducing the strain upon limited law enforcement resources;
- Encourage victims of violent crime to seek law enforcement assistance; and
- Assist law enforcement in identifying, arresting and removing violent actors from the community.

LEAP greatly appreciates the courageous leadership shown in introducing this bill, which benefits not only immigrant communities, but all of our communities.

Successful investigations into violent crime require many things, but one extremely important component is witness and victim cooperation. Before a crime can even be investigated, we, the police, need to know that the crime has been committed. Whether a robbery, home invasion, rape, incident of domestic violence, or human trafficking, someone needs to report it. If a victim or witness of a crime is too fearful to come to the authorities to report a crime, the investigation never occurs, leaving the culprit to continue preying upon the same victim and others. As a result, when a crime is not reported, not only is the victim still at risk, but also so are other members of the community, both immigrant and otherwise.

The authorities (police and others in government) must be seen as friends of, and not threats to, the law-abiding immigrant community. SB 245 will not only help ensure that a high level of trust is maintained between the police and the immigrant community, it will also help departments focus their limited resources upon the violent criminals within our communities.

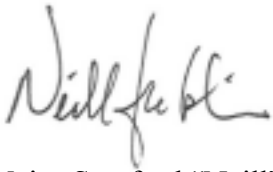
For example in 2011 I volunteered my time and expertise to the University of Maryland School of Law for an immigration case they were assisting with. Four members of the Baltimore immigrant community had been illegally detained and turned over to ICE by a Maryland Transportation Authority police officer. Three of the men were in a disabled vehicle and the fourth was called to assist. The men had committed no traffic violations and had no criminal records, yet they were detained, handcuffed, and eventually transported to the downtown Baltimore ICE office where they were turned over to federal authorities. This detention of non-violent immigrant community members took three police officers off our streets for a combined total of ten man hours, resulting in no increased safety for Marylanders.

Furthermore, the complexities of federal immigration law can lead to the inadvertent detention of U.S. citizens, resulting in expensive lawsuits for Maryland jurisdictions and taxpayers. As we know, many U.S. citizens speak imperfect English, and citizens are not required to carry identification. Citizens are also not required to identify themselves to law enforcement if there is no articulable suspicion that they have committed a crime. You don't need much of an imagination to see where this can lead when a police officer thinks that someone they engage on the street is in the country illegally.

On July 7, 2018, Sara Medrano was driving with her daughter and grandchildren when two deputies stopped her, purportedly for a broken taillight, and questioned where she was from and what her immigration status was. Then the deputies unlawfully tried to hold her for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in violation of the Fourth Amendment. When Ms. Medrano finally returned home, she realized that her taillight was working just fine and that the deputies, in fact, may have stopped her illegally.

We must have policies that encourage all victims of crime to step forward and report those crimes. At the same time, we must also have policies that enable us to properly deal with those who prey upon vulnerable members of society and not squander valuable law enforcement resources. SB 245 will do all the above, therefore, I ask that you give it a favorable report.

Respectfully,



Major Stanford “Neill” Franklin (Ret.)

[i] Major Neill Franklin (Ret.) is a distinguished figure in law enforcement, boasting a remarkable 34-year career that includes notable positions within both the Maryland State Police and the Baltimore Police Department. Franklin's extensive service began with the Maryland State Police, where he dedicated 23 years of his life to public safety. His exceptional performance led him to be selected in 2000 by the Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department to reconstruct and lead the Education and Training Section in Baltimore.
Throughout his tenure with the Maryland State Police, Franklin made significant contributions, notably serving as the commander of the Education and Training Division and the Bureau of Drug and Criminal Enforcement. He was instrumental in the creation and oversight of the first Domestic Violence Investigative Units for the Maryland State Police, showcasing his commitment to progressive policing practices.

Franklin's perspective on the War on Drugs was profoundly shaped by the community impacts he witnessed during his career. Influenced by former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke, who famously criticized the drug war’s violent repercussions, Franklin became a staunch advocate for reform. This commitment was further fueled by the heartbreaking loss of his close friend, Maryland State Police Corporal Ed Toatley, who was killed during an undercover drug operation. This tragedy solidified his resolve to challenge and change ineffective drug policies.

In 2010, Franklin transitioned from active duty to become the Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership, a role he held for a decade until his retirement in 2020. Under his guidance, the organization worked towards making the criminal justice system more fair and effective.

Franklin's expertise in policing has also been recognized in judicial settings, where he has served as an expert witness in both Maryland Circuit and federal district courts. His commitment to community engagement and reform extends beyond his professional duties; he has held positions on various boards, including the Youth & Police Initiative, the Alliance for Safety and Justice, the National Organization of Retired State Troopers, the Faith Based Community Council on Law Enforcement and Intelligence, and TurnAround Inc., among others.

Through his extensive service and advocacy, Major Neill Franklin has made a lasting impact on law enforcement practices and community safety initiatives, demonstrating a profound commitment to justice and reform.

[ii] The Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEA) is a nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who speak from firsthand experience. Our mission is to make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety and working toward healing police-community relations.

SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Nevan McMillian
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith and Committee Members,

My name is **Nevan McMillian**, and I am a **resident of Windsor Mill, Maryland and a student at the University of Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

ICE has been harassing and unjustly using severe force on people nationwide regardless if they're undocumented, a citizen, or a document resident. Numerous people have died from excessive force, abuse, and neglect through ICE actions in detainment and in detention facilities. I am a member of the UMD committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (TerpCHRP) and have worked with the nationwide migrants movement, Tangol Migrante. We have seen the medical neglect of Filipinos like Kuya Greggy and Tita Rebecca who have had severe medical issues under detention and were at significant risk. In the Baltimore Harbor we have been advocating for Filipino Seafarers who have been detained on trumped up charges, though this is Border Patrol I thought it beared mention.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Many of my peers when under distress or threat have called the police to seek help at the bottom of their list and have oftentimes suffered abuse for long periods of time because they feared to even interact with law enforcement.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

As a student at the University of Maryland the UMPD fulfills multiple roles as public servants where they can help with drug related crises, mental health crises, and public safety incidents. ICE would only serve to harm the community and if UMPD were to work with ICE no student, staff, or faculty member would ever feel safe calling UMPD if they are under distress or danger. On UMD's campus' there are numerous organizations and thousands of UMD community members pushing for a sanctuary campus to be implemented, so there is already significant community support in favor of preventing law enforcement in working with ICE.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I urge Judicial Proceedings to issue a favorable report.

Nevan McMillian

nmcmillian1105@gmail.com

L Diaz FAVORABLE SB 245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Nikki Owens
Position: FAV

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 Lorena M. Diaz and I am a resident in D40 of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

Ending 287(g) programs is deeply important to me because I have seen firsthand the devastating impact they have had on my family and loved ones. What is happening in Maryland with ICE and 287(g) agreements has forced many of my family members and friends into hiding and has fundamentally altered how they live their daily lives. They are afraid to do even the most basic things, like picking their children up from school, because of the constant fear of being detained, kidnapped, and deported. Programs like 287(g) only deepen this harm by entangling local law enforcement with federal immigration enforcement.

Everyday tasks that most people take for granted have become high-risk for my family. Out of fear of possible interactions with ICE or local police, my nephew, who is 11 years old, and my niece, who is 14, have been forced to take on adult responsibilities. They now help with errands like grocery shopping alongside documented family members so that their parents and grandparents are not put at risk. Being intentional about only speaking English in public so they do not draw additional attention on themselves. No child should have to shoulder this kind of fear or responsibility simply because of their family's immigration status. Or for any reason at all.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

For the past several months, we have witnessed the terror that ICE has brought onto our communities, creating a chilling effect across Maryland. Families have been torn apart. Communities have been destabilized. We have seen countless videos of our neighbors and loved ones being detained in public spaces. Outside their homes, at their workplaces, and in front of their children. This level of fear makes people afraid to go to work, take their kids to school, or seek medical care among many other things.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB245 County Council of Harford Co., MD
Uploaded by: Nolanda Robert
Position: FAV

COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

NOLANDA ROBERT
Council Member, District A
212 S. Bond Street, Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-638-3521
nrobert@harfordcountycouncil.com

January 22, 2026

RE: Support for SB 245 – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Dear Judicial Committee Senators [Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, Committee Members: Charles, Folden, Henson, James, Love, McKay, Muse, Sydnor, & West]:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 245, which prohibits the State, counties, sheriffs, and other local entities in Maryland from entering into or maintaining immigration enforcement agreements—specifically those under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act—and requires the termination of such existing agreements by July 1, 2026.

As a longtime advocate for community trust, safety, and equity, I believe SB 245 is a necessary step toward ensuring that Maryland's law enforcement agencies are focused on protecting all residents, regardless of immigration status. Current partnerships between some Maryland counties and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through 287(g) agreements undermine this principle and create environments of fear and division, particularly in immigrant communities.

While some argue that these agreements enhance public safety, research and community feedback tell a different story. Studies show that when local law enforcement is entangled with federal immigration enforcement, immigrants are less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek protection from abuse out of fear that any contact with police could lead to detention or deportation. This not only erodes trust but also makes all Maryland communities less safe.

Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown's recent guidance (2025) clarified that state and local agencies are not obligated to enforce civil immigration laws and may be liable for detaining individuals without judicial warrants. SB 245 reinforces this legal clarity and upholds constitutional principles by drawing a clear boundary between civil immigration matters and state public safety responsibilities.

Moreover, mandating the termination of existing agreements by July 1, 2026, allows jurisdictions time to responsibly transition out of these partnerships without disrupting operations or public confidence.

I urge you and your colleagues to support SB 245 and stand with immigrant families, advocates, and public safety leaders who know that true community policing cannot coexist with federal immigration enforcement.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a more just and inclusive Maryland.

Respectfully Submitted

Nolanda Robert

SOMD4RE for SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Ongisa Ichile-Mckenzie
Position: FAV

To: Maryland General Assembly
From: Ongisa Ichile-Mckenzie, Director, Southern Marylanders for Racial Equality
Re: Senate Bill 245

January 20, 2026

Dear Senators:

As Director of Southern Marylanders for Racial Equality, representing families and residents across Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties. I submit this testimony in urgent and personal support of Senate Bill 245, a bill that would prohibit Maryland law enforcement from entering into or renewing agreements under the federal 287(g) program with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Senate Bill 245 is not abstract policy — it is a public safety imperative grounded in the real threat that comes when local police become entangled with federal immigration enforcement.

Just weeks ago, a federal ICE agent fatally shot 37-year-old Renée Good, a U.S. citizen, during an enforcement operation in Minneapolis. Investigations and video show that the ICE agent, whose face and identification were not visible to bystanders, discharged his weapon at close range during the encounter. This tragic death — and ongoing national controversy — underscores the dangers of enforcement operations conducted without clear accountability or community trust.

In Southern Maryland, residents already live in fear of aggressive immigration enforcement practices that resemble illegal detentions and home intrusions by federal agents in other states. People in our region have shared personal accounts of ICE raids that resemble "home invasions," where agents carry out arrests without transparent identification, escalating fear across immigrant and mixed-status families.

Under the 287(g) program, local police could be deputized to act as federal immigration officers, including assisting with detentions that may lead to federal enforcement actions like those seen in Minneapolis and elsewhere. This not only jeopardizes civil liberties and due process but also jeopardizes public safety. When residents fear that ordinary interactions with police — reporting a shooting, seeking help after a break-in, or cooperating with an investigation — might trigger immigration scrutiny or detainment, the already thin trust collapses.

Senate Bill 245 reaffirms that local public safety and community policing should not be repurposed into immigration enforcement. Removing 287(g) agreements protects Maryland families by keeping local police focused on preventing violent crime, responding to emergencies, and building trust — rather than participating in federal actions that have led to deaths, fear, and mistrust.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 245.

Respectfully submitted,

Ongisa Ichile-Mckenzie
Director, Southern Marylanders for Racial Equality

Testimony - SB0245 - Favorable -011926 (1).pdf
Uploaded by: Paul Holmes
Position: FAV

Hearing Date: Thursday, 1/22 at 1:00 p.m.
Paul Holmes
Silver Spring, MD 20901

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

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

FROM: Paul Holmes

My name is Paul Holmes. I am a resident of District 19 and I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition. This critical legislation will help ensure that all state residents feel safe, valued, and welcome in our communities, while upholding civil and constitutional rights.

Like you, our family, neighbors and church members are working for peace and justice in our community and in the world. We have: hosted trainings and impacted-community events; provided financial and volunteer support to immigrant-focused local NGOs; taught English; provided direct immigrant support; accompanied neighbors to immigration and court hearings; advocated for statewide legislation; and participated in supportive rallies.

Here in Montgomery County, immigrants make up 30% of our population and are integral to the fabric of our community. We know firsthand the value of diverse communities and the vibrant social fabric that is woven when those communities come together to learn, to work, and to care for one another. Similarly, now, we all feel the impact of Trump's cruel deportation machine, disappearing county residents with minimum trace and no due process. The fear and anxiety in our community and places of worship is high and palpable. It has disrupted family and community life making fearful families miss jobs, school, language classes and food distribution. As of last count, eighteen Montgomery County Public School students have been deported or forced to self-deport.

Collaboration between the Department of Homeland Security and state and local law enforcement makes us all less safe by eroding public trust in police and scaring people from being witnesses, reporting crime and cooperating in investigations. Such collaboration encourages rampant racial-profiling and targets valuable, productive and contributing community members. Moreover, during a time when Maryland and its counties face serious fiscal challenges, such collaboration adds more to the plates of already struggling state and county agencies and diverts our state and local resources to do ICE's job for them.

I strongly support efforts to codify immigrant protections into Maryland state law and to strengthen measures to limit, and where feasible prohibit, the use of state and local resources and warrant-less cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any federal agency for the purpose of detention and deportation, ultimately leading to family separation. I

urge policies and legislation that focus on ensuring that community members feel safe, not threatened by their state or local governments, including local law enforcement units.

By codifying these protections, Maryland will send a clear message that the state rejects using state and local resources to tear families apart and reaffirms its commitment to Maryland being a truly welcoming and safe place for all residents. I respectfully urge a **favorable report on SB0245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

SB245_MSEA_Lemle_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Paul Lemle
Position: FAV

MARYLAND STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

140 Main Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
800 448 6782
410 263 6600

marylandeducators.org

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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

Paul Lemle
President

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 245, which prohibits state and local law enforcement from entering into certain immigration enforcement agreements.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 40 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Senate Bill 245 is part of a number of legislative initiatives that MSEA is supporting this session to lend our voice to protect students in schools and their communities. The dangerous escalation of immigration enforcement in communities across the country is an authoritarian tactic with little regard for due process and equal protection that threatens safety, civil liberties, and democratic values across the country. Students and educators are traumatized by these actions, and communities everywhere are living under fear. We see the effects in classrooms: empty seats, disrupted learning, rising fear, and growing demand for mental health support. Students cannot learn when they are afraid for their safety or the safety of their families.

Educators have a moral and professional responsibility to keep all students safe, primarily in schools, and also to advocate for safe communities for our students and their families. We believe this is more than an immigration issue. This is a human rights issue, a civil rights issue, and a democracy issue.

MSEA adds our voice to this critical moment that requires a renewed commitment to civil rights and social justice and urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 245.

FAVORABLE SB0245_Paula Casagrande.pdf
Uploaded by: Paula Casagrande
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL – IN SUPPORT

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Paula Casagrande, and I am a resident of and own a business in Havre de Grace, MD. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I personally live in fear right now. I have a Hispanic last name. That ICE will show up. And I have a nephew of mixed race that is now carrying his birth certificate with him now. We should not have to live like this in the United States of America!

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

This is the Feds program we should not be using our resources to do their jobs.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Paula Casagrande

SB245 PNR Testimony_20Jan2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Peta Richkus
Position: FAV

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 Peta N. Richkus and I am a resident of Baltimore County. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Such agreements only encourage the overreach and unlawful behavior we have witnessed from the Trump administration and its expansion of ICE. It cannot be lost on the Members that the new Maryland detention facility proposed is slated for Hagerstown: Washington County is one of the counties with a current 287g agreement to deputize local law enforcement to help enforce federal immigration laws and allowing officers to question immigration status.

Programs like 287(g) have been credibly associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

As Secretary of General Services from 1999 through 2002 I was in responsible charge of the Maryland Capitol Police, the law enforcement agency responsible for providing a safe environment for all visitors, employees, and government leaders at all state facilities and State Office centers. **I can assure you, no one would accept the Maryland Capitol Police entering into a 287g agreement. Wouldn't the Members of this committee – ALL members of the General Assembly, in fact – agree?!**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Peta N. Richkus
107 Versailles Cir, Apt A
Towson, MD 21204

2026 SB 245 Ateto testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Philip Ateto
Position: FAV

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

My name is Philip Ateto and I am a lifelong Marylander, currently residing in Annapolis, in Anne Arundel County. I am writing in support of support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

At a time when trust in law enforcement is already low and continuing to decline, deputizing local law enforcement hastens the erosion of trust of local law enforcement, resulting in make vulnerable immigrant communities even more vulnerable as they are less likely to report crimes for fear of being profiled and arrested.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

We have seen the egregious violations of Constitutional rights by ICE with impunity to citizens and non-citizens alike and allowing 287g would leave communities without any law enforcement agencies they can trust as their local police would potentially been working directly with ICE as we have seen in other municipalities. It would also further implement racial profiling aka “Kavanaugh stops” reversing decades of progress for black and brown communities.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Banning 287g would give communities a local law enforcement agency they can trust to impartially enforce laws, without fear of being proiled.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB0245_Prabu Selvam_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Prabu Selvam
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: 22 January, 2026

Prabu Selvam
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

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: Prabu Selvam

My name is Prabu Selvam. I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I am a lifelong resident of Maryland, born and raised in Montgomery County. The neighborhood I grew up in was composed mostly of immigrants from all over the world. Our parents spoke different languages and came from different cultures, but we always had a sense of safety and belonging in our community.

That sense of community led me to serve in the U.S. military, become a public health physician, and now run for local office as a Montgomery County Council At-Large candidate. It is heartbreaking that today, our children of immigrants are made to live in fear in their own communities where they should feel safest. This leads to social isolation and disconnection, compromising their education, mental and physical health.

287(g) has led to anxiety and distrust across the nation and unfortunately in a growing number of jurisdictions across our state. The deputization of local law enforcement in a time when ICE is blatantly breaking the law and violating democracy and human rights, leads to communities that are LESS SAFE.

I think of the tens of thousands of children from immigrant families living in Montgomery County alone. Imagine living in a world where you and your parents are surrounded by local law enforcement, members of your own community, who are willing to cause you harm because of a 287(g) agreement with a rogue and cruel federal administration. Families would no longer trust local law enforcement to investigate domestic violence, abuse, neglect and other crimes that people suffer from in silence.

Working as an ER physician, I see these voiceless members of our community, and how often they depend on law enforcement to protect them and to connect them with resources. 287(g) undermines the protective role of law enforcement in communities and makes them an adversary. This makes all of us unsafe, especially the most vulnerable.

We should not allow 287(g) agreements anywhere in our state.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.

SB245-Testimony-RArmendariz.pdf
Uploaded by: Rebecca Armendariz
Position: FAV

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 Rebecca Armendariz, MSW, LCSW-C; I'm a resident of Baltimore County and a clinical social worker. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

The increase in ICE activity in our state is a direct result of the authoritarian takeover of the U.S. federal government. ICE officers are modern slave catchers, kidnapping people of color on sight without any concern for the law or Constitution. We in Maryland must use every possible resource and pull every lever of power that we can to prevent more of our neighbors from ICE/DHS detention. Banning 287(g) agreements is critical to this task.

We are in precarious times, with the federal impoundment crisis and destructive of civil service deeply impacting our state. We must provide communities with resources to survive this time, material and social, and not further tax residents' nervous systems and psyches by contributing to the brutality of this state terror campaign.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rebecca Armendariz, MSW, LCSW-C

SB0245_RebeccaGoldfinger_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Rebecca Goldfinger
Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: 1/20/2026

Rebecca Goldfinger
Silver Spring, MD 20901

TESTIMONY ON SB#0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Rebecca Goldfinger

My name is Rebecca Goldfinger. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I am a member of a synagogue in Laurel, Maryland as well as a resident of Montgomery County. I care about this bill because of the Jewish commandment to love the stranger, because of my personal background as the descendent of immigrants, because of my own ethical code, and because of my experiences with newcomers to this country for whose safety and well-being I am very concerned because of the current political climate and 287g agreements.

My Jewish upbringing tells me to “welcome the stranger.” My great grandparents and great-great grandparents were immigrants who came to this country from Europe seeking a better future. And my own personal ethical code demands that I treat other human beings with respect.

As a member of my synagogue, I have had the opportunity to work with two refugee families, and I have also volunteered with CASA, a group that aids immigrant families in Maryland. In the current political environment, I am afraid that immigrant families I know might be targeted by ICE and detained or even deported, regardless of their immigration status.

For all of these reasons, I support SB#0245, which would prohibit the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement and would require the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before July 1, 2026.

I believe that abolishing 287g agreements in the State of Maryland would create a safer environment for our immigrant neighbors. They would be less likely to be detained and/or deported by ICE, if local police were not required to collaborate with ICE. This would also protect our immigrant neighbors because they would be more willing to contact police if they were in an emergency situation where a police presence was needed to protect them.

In sum, because of my values, Jewish and otherwise, and because of my life experience and relationships with immigrants, I believe that this bill would protect immigrants in our state. In light of this, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.

SB 45.pdf
Uploaded by: Rebecca Turner
Position: FAV

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 Rebecca M. Turner, and I am a resident of La Plata, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

The entire world is horrified at the assault on our populace. This must be stopped. Here in Maryland, these agreements have no place.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Turner

Eckel FAV SB245 - End 287g agreements.pdf
Uploaded by: Rianna Eckel
Position: FAV

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

My name is Rianna Eckel, I live in district 43A, and I am a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, is an all-volunteer organization working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. **I am writing in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

The End 287g Agreements Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in eight Maryland counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including: increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resulting "chilling effect" in Hispanic communities.[1] Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program"[2] Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who "posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%."[3]

The last Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite urban areas citing costs and the impact on community relations. DHS removed expiration dates and other guardrails that provided any attempted reforms and changes to the agreements under the Obama administration[4]. The current administration has continued to remove restrictions and oversight of ICE, leading inevitably to the horrifying murder of Renee Good in Minneapolis. While we've yet to see similar violence in Maryland, every additional encounter between Marylanders and ICE increases the chance of such an incident. Our local law enforcement should not be initiating these encounters.

Maryland's large immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing $8 billion in federal and $4 billion in state taxes, providing $2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power[5]. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to issue a favorable report on SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.

Sincerely,
Rianna Eckel
2300 Hunter St, Baltimore MD 21218
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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[1] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018

[2] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1

[3] The 287(g) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council

[4] License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); April, 26, 2022

[5] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council
[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

Testimony in support of SB0245 - Public Safety - I
Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz
Position: FAV

SB0245_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

01/22/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

TESTIMONY ON SB#0245 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

TO: Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ SB#/0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

This bill has become vitally necessary in a climate in which the Federal Government has shown its total disrespect for the law and the Constitution by the Department of Homeland Security and ICE. The bill addresses this problem by prohibiting the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement; and requiring the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before July 1, 2026.

My Jewish faith commands me to view immigrants positively. Leviticus 19:33-34 states "When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I יהוה am your G-d."

Some Maryland jurisdictions have added immigration responsibilities by participating in the 287(g) Immigration program. The program has been costly for localities, has historically targeted individuals with little or no criminal history, and has harmed the relationship between police and local communities.

This legislation protects our immigrants who may have committed the civil infraction of being undocumented by prohibiting the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into a certain immigration enforcement agreement that treats them as criminals absent any criminal conduct. It helps counteract the fear and intimidation that is poisoning the relationship between police and the people they are supposed to serve. 287(g) encourages racial profiling to move people who may not have even been indicted into custody of ICE. It destroys families and communities.

This legislation is a moral imperative so that nobody, regardless of their immigration status, lives in fear of deportation or family separation when they seek to participate fully in our society. Immigrants, documented or not, are a positive and not a negative and must be treated as such.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.

MEC- SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Rick Tyler, Jr.-CoChair
Position: FAV

Maryland Education Coalition

Ellie Mitchell & Rick Tyler, Jr. – Co-Chairs

Web site - www.marylandeducationcoalition.org *** **Email** - md.education.coalition@gmail.com

SUPPORT: Senate Bill 245
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC), founded in 1980, advocates for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide for all students in Maryland's public schools, regardless of their academic, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status. Our members have extensive, diverse public education experiences and resources and have been found within every level of public education in Maryland from schools, to local and state education departments, commissions, task forces and study groups serving as advocates and advisors on a wide range of issues including the Thornton and Blueprint laws, state education regulations, student and family services, school facilities, operating and capital budget issues. We believe there must be meaningful stakeholder participation in the decision-making process at the local, state, and federal level defined in federal law.

Our coalition includes member organizations that represent all major student groups, including immigrants. Our members believe that education funding and public policy decisions must apply universally accepted equity principles of fairness that are culturally responsive, and reduce achievement, learning, and opportunity gaps among all student groups regardless of their demographic, financial or geographic status. We oppose discrimination against staff, students, parents/guardians, or visitors by age, disability, economic status, educational background, culture, ethnicity, gender, geographic location, language, national origin, parental status, race, religion, sexual orientation, work experience, or other demographic status.

We work to ensure that all students are allowed to come to school in a safe, welcoming learning environment that gives them access to a high-quality education, which will prepare them to become college or career-ready without the exposure and trauma caused by public safety officials within school communities that do not put each student's education and welfare first

Therefore, the Maryland Education offers favorable testimony in support of Senate Bill 245 - **Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**

At its core, SB 245 is about upholding Maryland's values of fairness, dignity, and justice. This legislation recognizes that state and local governments should not be pulled into federal immigration enforcement through agreements such as 287(g). These agreements undermine public trust, divert limited local resources away from community safety, and create fear that keeps families from fully participating in civic life. Maryland should remain focused on due process, equal treatment under the law, and ensuring that all residents feel safe interacting with public institutions.

MEC has seen firsthand how immigration enforcement activity affects the communities we serve. Fear of detention or deportation leads students to miss school, struggle to concentrate in class, and disengage from learning altogether. Parents are less likely to attend school meetings, access services, or communicate with educators when they fear contact with government systems. This climate of fear harms not only immigrant families, but entire school communities, and directly conflicts with the Blueprint's emphasis on student well-being, family engagement, and inclusive learning environments.

Programs such as 287(g) have a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They erode trust between law enforcement and the communities they are meant to serve, making everyone less safe. When families are afraid to report crimes, seek help, or engage with public institutions, public safety suffers.

These enforcement practices undermine MEC's mission by creating barriers to educational access and stability for all students. Maryland cannot achieve the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future while allowing policies that drive fear into schools and communities and push students out of the learning environment.

For these reasons, the Maryland Education Coalition urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 245.

Please contact Ellie Mitchell or Rick Tyler, Jr. for additional questions at md.education.coalition@gmail.com

BC - FAVORABLE_ SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Riya Gupta
Position: FAV

SUPPORT: Senate Bill 245
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

The Blueprint Coalition is a coalition of more than 30 organizations representing hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and is co-led by Strong Schools Maryland and the Maryland Education Coalition. The coalition is dedicated to the full implementation and funding of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and works to ensure that Maryland's education system supports all students, particularly those most impacted by systemic inequities. Our members include educators, parents, advocates, and community organizations that work closely with immigrant students and families across the state. **The Blueprint Coalition offers favorable testimony in support of Senate Bill 245, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

At its core, SB 245 is about upholding Maryland's values of fairness, dignity, and justice. This legislation recognizes that state and local governments should not be pulled into federal immigration enforcement through agreements such as 287(g). These agreements undermine public trust, divert limited local resources away from community safety, and create fear that keeps families from fully participating in civic life. Maryland should remain focused on due process, equal treatment under the law, and ensuring that all residents feel safe interacting with public institutions.

The Blueprint Coalition has seen firsthand how immigration enforcement activity affects the communities we serve. Fear of detention or deportation leads students to miss school, struggle to concentrate in class, and disengage from learning altogether. Parents are less likely to attend school meetings, access services, or communicate with educators when they fear contact with government systems. This climate of fear harms not only immigrant families, but entire school communities, and directly conflicts with the Blueprint's emphasis on student well-being, family engagement, and inclusive learning environments.

Programs such as 287(g) have a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They erode trust between law enforcement and the communities they are meant to serve, making everyone less safe. When families are afraid to report crimes, seek help, or engage with public institutions, public safety suffers.

These enforcement practices undermine the mission of the Blueprint Coalition by creating barriers to educational access and stability for students. Maryland cannot achieve the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future while allowing policies that drive fear into schools and communities and push students out of the learning environment.

For these reasons, the Blueprint Coalition urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 245.

Please contact Riya Gupta at riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.

SB 245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Robert Van Rens
Position: FAV

THE Golden Mile ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 3136 Frederick, MD 21703 | 240.439-8368 | info@goldenmilealliance.org

Testimony on Senate Bill 245 – 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 Robert Van Rens and I am the Executive Director of the Golden Mile Alliance. The GMA works on behalf of 321 storefront businesses and around 400 other enterprises based on the west side of Frederick. Our mission is economic and community development, and that takes place in the busiest and most productive commercial district in Frederick County. The Golden Mile is the economic engine that help run the fastest growing county in Maryland, and the immigrant communities that make up a large part of the Golden Mile are integral to that growth. We cannot continue to move forward without them, and we recognize their invaluable contribution to our city and our county.

The Golden Mile, which encompasses most of Frederick's new City Council District 2 and a portion of District 1, is the most densely populated district in the County. We are on average the youngest, with the fastest growing families, and the most diverse community in both the city of Frederick and Frederick County. 40% of the Golden Mile's residents speak a language other than English at home. Nearly 30% of the population were born outside the US, and US involvement in overseas conflict tells the story of settlement in the area; Latin America, Southeast Asia, West Africa, West Asia and North Africa, and the Caribbean.

While some of the highly visible businesses in the district are ones that many people know and that serve a wide customer base, many, even a majority, are supported by the surrounding community. They were started to meet a need felt by people living far from their homeland, who wanted the comforts of familiar foods, the opportunity to gather with others who shared a language or other traditions, or they needed assistance navigating a bewildering interface with a government that had expectations different than those that they had grown up with – tax codes, drivers licensing and vehicle registration, and other official services.

These businesses are owned by people who work hard and who contribute in many ways to their communities, both that of their origin and the larger community to which they belong. They are the first to assist their neighbors in difficult times, they support each other and are part of the bond that holds the community together. Without these hundreds of smaller enterprises, the Golden Mile community would be less vibrant, less lively, and have fewer opportunities for residents to succeed.

287(g) is one of the obstacles to success for many of these businesses. The residents that support the local markets, the small restaurants and the beauty salons and other shops that serve the local community are afraid to leave home any more than they absolutely must. They are afraid to stop for gas. They are afraid to vote. They are afraid of -any- interaction which might bring them into contact with local law enforcement, because many of them are convinced that if they are pulled over or stopped while on foot, that they will be taken into custody. They know that once that happens, they will be sent to the Frederick County Adult Detention Center and turned over to immigration authorities, and they are certain that, regardless of their status, whether legal resident or US citizen, they will enter the deportation pipeline.

The sheriff insists that using his department to enforce immigration laws has helped bring down crime, but the numbers don't hold up. In 2024, Frederick County experienced a 4% overall drop

in crime, while Montgomery and Prince George's County, both of whom have larger immigrant populations in both absolute terms and as a portion of the county's population, saw greater a greater drop – 7% and 6% respectively. Neither county participates in the 287(g) program.

There is no evidence to suggest that 287(g) helps reduce crime because the immigrant population, regardless of status, does not commit crimes at a higher rate than the rest of the population. Suggesting this is a racially discriminatory mindset, and in fact the opposite is true; compared across income levels, communities with a high concentration of immigrants experience lower rates of crime than comparable non-immigrant populations. The Golden Mile is a testament to this – our crime rates are comparable to the Downtown district, and many of the violent crimes that occur are committed by someone from outside the community.

The impact of 287(g) on the Golden Mile business community is not trivial. Businesses that were thriving are suffering. Stores and restaurants that were primarily supported by the community have seen a drop-off in business. Residents that were employed by local enterprises have been laid off. Others are afraid to come to work, and some businesses struggle to fill openings. This economic engine is beginning to falter.

These impacts are not confined just to the Golden Mile, either. Many residents of the district work elsewhere in the county; while we are seeing a surge in biotech, in logistics, and in other industries that are helping fuel the economic growth of the county and the state, many of the people who work in those facilities, and who help build the new locations for these industries, live in the Golden Mile area. When the construction crews and the warehouse workers and the shift foremen stop coming in because they are worried that a green card or a US passport won't keep them from being deported, that growth slows down. Those new, high-paying jobs go away.

There is no good reason for any Maryland law enforcement agency to participate in the 287(g) program. Regardless of your views on immigration, the objective numbers don't lie. The immigrant community is a cornerstone of economic growth, and the negative effects of 287(g) on the immigrant community are also negative effects on the economy. 287(g) is bad for our immigrant community and it's bad for business, and it brings no benefit at all.

Thank you for your time.

SB0245_RonitADancis_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Ronit A Dancis
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

Ronit A. Dancis
Silver Spring, 20910

TESTIMONY ON SB#0245 - POSITION: (FAVORABLE)
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Ronit Aviva Dancis

My name is Ronit Aviva Dancis. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of (SB#0245), (Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition).

I am the sister-in-law, daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, stepdaughter and niece of immigrants. My relatives have come to the US from Czarist Russia, from a displaced persons camp in post-Holocaust Austria and from South America. Our family, almost all Marylanders, includes people whose first language is Russian, Yiddish or Spanish. My family as I know it would not exist were it not for the US tradition of welcoming immigrants.

That US and Maryland tradition of welcoming immigrants is being savaged by ICE. Under the Trump administration, ICE has abducted Marylanders without cause or notice. ICE has consistently violated the legal and constitutional rights of Marylanders, and is terrorizing brown and Black Marylanders. 287(g) agreements allow local law enforcement agencies to detain people solely on the basis of their immigration status, and turn local law enforcement officers into agents of ICE.

In the last 12 months, the number of Maryland counties with 287(g) agreements has gone up from 3 to 8; the number of Marylanders arrested by ICE has skyrocketed.

Marylanders are counting on you to pass legislation to end existing 287(g) agreements, and to prohibit state and local law enforcement agencies from entering into such agreements. Such legislation will not stop ICE agents themselves, but it will prevent local law enforcement collaboration with ICE. It will reduce the dangers facing so many Maryland families, including mine.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.

Rosanne B. Hanratty Testimony in Favor of SB 0245.
Uploaded by: Rosanne Hanratty
Position: FAV

Testimony in Favor of SB 0245
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

DATE: January 20, 2026

TO: Sen. William Smith, Sen. William Ferguson and Sen. Karen Lewis Young, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, Maryland General Assembly

FROM: Rosanne B. Hanratty, Ellicott City MD

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **IN FAVOR of *SB 0245 Public Safety Immigration Enforcement Agreements–Prohibition***

I am a resident of Howard County and chair the Immigration Mobilization Committee of the Justice and Peace Committee at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Community Baltimore. I am also a member of Indivisible Howard County and, importantly, the proud granddaughter of immigrants. I come from a very large law enforcement family. In fact, my father served for 32 years as a detective with the New York Police Department. He worked with immigrant communities and impressed upon me the importance of trust in law enforcement.

My opposition to 287 (g) agreements between law enforcement and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Service is grounded both in my faith and my role as citizen.

My faith calls upon me to recognize all people as children of God, entitled to dignity and care. Consistent with the teaching of the biblical prophets, the words of Jesus, and Catholic social teaching, my faith has led to my participation in parish immigration mobilization efforts. In addition to advocacy and direct ministry to others regardless of immigration status, we as a parish publicly witness and pray the Rosary monthly on Hopkins Plaza in front of the Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore, for all immigrants, migrants and those in danger of deportation, *especially for those detained by ICE in that building.*

As a citizen, I recognize that under the US Constitution all people, regardless of immigration status, are entitled to due process and equal protection under the law. Sadly, we have seen since January 20 2025, that immigration enforcement consistently violates both basic human dignity and rights provided under the Constitution and law.

Immigrants are integral members of our communities. They make communities more vibrant and contribute to the social and economic fabric of localities and Maryland as a whole. An April 2024 Policy Brief from the Office of the Comptroller of Maryland, Brooke Lierman, highlights how critical immigration is to Maryland's population and labor force. Immigration augments insufficient labor supply and provides untapped talent in jobs such as health care, research, construction and technology. In issuing the report, Comptroller Lierman stated, "…immigrants are a significant asset to our economy and [this report] demonstrates the need for policies as well as investments that will allow them to participate more fully in our economy and lead to additional growth for our entire state." (*News Release*: *Comptroller of Maryland: Comptroller Brooke Lierman Releases New Report on Immigration and Maryland Economy, April 18, 2024)*

The Comptroller's report emphasizes that immigrants are critical to Maryland's labor force. Maryland's population and labor force have a larger proportion of immigrants than neighboring states. In fact, immigrants make up fully 21% of Maryland's labor force. Immigration offsets large declines in natural population growth rates in Maryland, and the vast majority of immigrants enter Maryland legally. 287 (g) agreements between law enforcement and ICE undermine these documented benefits.

Eight Maryland counties have 287 (g) agreements, up from three before President Trump took office on January 20, 2025.

These agreements make our communities less safe. Crimes may go unreported; victims of violent crimes such as rape are not protected; and dangerous offenders remain at large. Critical medical and other assistance will not be rendered if immigrants and members of communities-including US citizens-will not contact law enforcement out of fear of their working in concert with ICE.

Nor do 287 (g) agreements prevent crime. Montgomery County, Maryland's most diverse county, does not have a 287 (g) agreement and saw a 7% drop in crime in 2024; Cecil and Harford, which do have 287 (g) agreements, saw no such decrease. Baltimore City saw record-breaking reductions in murders in 2025. Baltimore City does not have a 287 (g) agreement with ICE. Moreover, 287 (g) agreements largely target innocent and low-level offenders, not convicted violent criminals. From 2008 to 2025, in Frederick County, fully 80% of 287 (g) detainees were individuals who allegedly committed only a misdemeanor, including traffic offenses.

In the face of attacks by ICE, immigrants and their families--including US citizens--seek only protection for themselves and their communities, i.e. only what they are entitled to under law and the Constitution. We have seen with the killing of Renee Good and the brutal actions of immigration enforcers in Minneapolis and other communities, that even US citizens who support the rights of immigrants, and peacefully protest unconstitutional actions, are subject to brutality, violence, even death. Consider how much worse this would be if the Minneapolis Police Department had a 287 (g) agreement with ICE.

Please pass SB 0245 to ban such agreements statewide.

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Roslyn Zinner
Position: FAV

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 Roslyn Zinner and I am a **resident of Howard County], Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

My husband and I sponsored a mother and son from Honduras 6 years ago. They lived with us for three years and are now self supporting. But now they are afraid and would be reluctant to call law enforcement if they needed to.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

FAVORABLE SB 245 – Public Safety Testimony_Sabrina
Uploaded by: Sabrina Williams
Position: FAV

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 **Sabrina Williams** and I am a **Frederick County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

The Maryland I know and love welcomes immigrants and treats them with respect and compassion. The Marland I know respects democracy, truth, and justice. ICE's actions are anything but respectful, compassionate, democratic, truth-seeking, or judicious. All Marylanders deserve to live with dignity and respect from our law enforcement officials and without fear of unnecessary aggression or illegal arrests and detainment

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

My immigrant neighbors and community live in terror. They minimize trips to spend money in our community (ie, grocery, movies, eating out) due to fear of arrests even if they are documented. They delay or forego medical and dental appointments, keep kids out of school when ICE is active, and often remove their children from extracurriculars. This is a tragedy that no human should have to live with, especially not here in Maryland.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

FAVORABLE SB0245_Samantha Hodge-Williams.pdf
Uploaded by: Samantha Hodge-Williams
Position: FAV

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 Samantha Hodge-Williams, and I am a resident of Garrett County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

ICE cooperation is economically harmful to our entire state, has a negative effect on crime rates, violates constitutional protections, and increases local law enforcement expenses. It negatively impacts our State at every level: professionally and economically, in population and in community.

At the professional level, Maryland benefits from a base of internationally recruited expertise from around the world; indeed, our state institutions and businesses employ some of the brightest minds from abroad. However, these same experts no longer feel safe in an environment with repeated ICE civil violations. Personally, I know medical experts from abroad—specialists, financial advisors, and highly trained researchers—who, despite having obtained U.S. citizenship years ago, are now relocating to institutions in countries other than the United States, taking their skills and experience with them. They see little choice: they do not want to live in a state that permits or cooperates with the ICE intimidation, abductions, and abuse that are now uncurbed by the due process that was taken for granted for so long. I ask you: how are Maryland and its citizens the better for these losses of expertise, not worse? Cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE will only increase these losses.

At the economical level, it harms the State to lose the hard-working immigrant population that bolsters our economy with their state and federal taxes. Immigrants are an asset because their skills, willingness to work hard, and commitment to and gratitude for freedom. "The American Immigration Council estimates that in 2021 Maryland's combined population of immigrants paid $13.3 billion in federal, state, and local taxes and had total spending power of $33.1 billion" (April 2024 Maryland Comptroller Report: State of the Economy). Undocumented immigrants alone paid nearly $780 million in state and local taxes in 2022, without the ability to collect on social services. Maryland will be economically poorer without them.

In the context of population, "Immigrants have long bolstered Maryland's population. Over the past decade, in the face of natural population decline and increasing domestic outmigration, immigrants have been a source of stability for the state…Immigrants are more likely to participate in the labor force than U.S.-born Marylanders." These facts are critical in the face of labor shortages seen in Maryland post-pandemic (April 2024 Maryland Comptroller Report: State of the Economy). Garrett County, for example, has had significant population decline and a lack of necessary medical and other service professionals. The well-being of our county depends on its ability to attract and to recruit new "outsider" families to bolster our population, not intimidate and frighten them away through 287g partnerships with ICE.

In closing, I would like to address the erroneous argument that by permitting 287g agreements, Maryland will decrease the likelihood of increased ICE raids and immigrant arrests. In fact, states that cooperate with ICE have by far the highest arrest rates, mostly of non-criminal residents, since state law enforcement provides the manpower and jails. A December 2025 analysis of ICE arrest data shows that "…the impact of state and local strategies to block ICE access to jails is visible in data from Illinois, New York, and Oregon, where ICE arrests remain lower than other states… the data, which show significantly smaller jumps in arrest rates in states where advocates have most aggressively worked to reject collaboration, and much higher rates in states that have embraced it." (Data obtained via FOIA request and processed by the Deportation Data Project & analyzed by the Prison Policy Initiative https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2025/12/11/ice-jails-update/. The single exception to this was New Jersey, in which

local sheriffs continued to cooperate with ICE outside of the banned 287g agreement. These results from other states show the need for a supplemental bill to forbid officers from working against Maryland's protections of immigrants.

It is for these reasons that I ask you to vote in support of SB0245 - the Maryland Values Act. Please vote to protect the resources, economy, and integrity of the State of Maryland and those residing within.

SB 245 - MoCo_Morningstar_FAV (GA 26).pdf
Uploaded by: Sara Morningstar
Position: FAV

Montgomery County
Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550 **ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270**

SB 245 **DATE: January 22, 2026**

SPONSOR: Senators Smith, Ferguson, and Lewis Young

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

COUNTY POSITION: Support

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Bill 245 prohibits the State, a unit of local government, a County Sheriff, or any other agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into a certain immigration enforcement agreement; requires the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before a certain date; and generally relates to immigration enforcement. Montgomery County supports this legislation.

Montgomery County prohibits law enforcement agencies within our jurisdiction from deputizing police to perform federal immigration enforcement, or as these agreements are more commonly known, from entering into Section 287(g) agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The County sees a clear connection between a communities' sense of safety and public trust and the destabilizing impact of federal immigration enforcement agreements with State and local police departments. Such formal collaboration with the federal government only serves to continue the current erosion of our residents' Constitutionally-protected civil rights, and fuels the potential for dangerously detrimental law enforcement practices that could lead to racial profiling in immigration arrests.

For these important reasons, Montgomery County urges the Committee to protect the public safety of all Maryland residents and adopt a favorable report on Senate Bill 245.

SB 245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Sara Ryan
Position: FAV

My grandfather, Patrick Daly, fled a famine to come to the United States. He was poor at first. Three of his six children died in infancy. Eventually, he became a police sergeant in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and a trusted member of the community. His son, my father, studied law at Yale on a scholarship, where he was ridiculed at times by the elite. My father would not tolerate slurs of any kind in our home. My father used his skills to ensure that members of his community received fair treatment in courts of law. I was taught to respect my neighbor. That is why I am speaking here today.

People who come here seeking safety are our neighbors. Their kids play with my grandkids. They want to give their kids a better life just as my grandfather and father worked so hard to do for their children.

We can live up to the values that brought my grandfather here. I want Maryland to be a place where people trust our legal system and its law enforcement. I want our Maryland home to be a place where people know their rights will be protected. Our constitution guarantees the right to due process for everyone.

ICE too often uses cruel methods and violates the right to due process that every person in America has. I cannot agree with those who say that 287g is just a tool. A tool can become a weapon when it is being misused. I support SB0245 and a clean bill banning 287g agreements in MD. I do not want our state to be complicit with ICE's cruelty. I urge you to pass this bill early with no carve-outs or compromises.

Thank you.

287(g)WrittenTestimony.01.20.26.pdf
Uploaded by: Sea Raven
Position: FAV

Bill Number SB0245 - Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition
Position: Favorable
Sea Raven and M. Michael Morse
5512 Old National Pike
Frederick, MD 21702

We have opposed the 287(g) agreement held by Sheriff Chuck Jenkins since we moved to Frederick, Maryland in 2014. Sheriff Jenkins has been sued twice for racially profiling immigrants in Frederick County. He has consistently misrepresented documented facts about our immigrant communities, including that Maryland counties *without* 287g agreements have had greater drops in crime rates than counties *with* 287(g) agreements. What keeps getting buried in our discussions is that as a demographic group, immigrants are the most law-abiding people of all.

We agree with Senate President Bill Ferguson's statement that "ICE and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are operating with impunity, violating constitutional rights of American citizens and immigrants alike. For our law enforcement agencies to maintain the public trust, they cannot aid and abet that lawlessness." (Instagram, November 14, 2025)

We urge you to vote in favor of SB0245 for the safety and well-being of all Maryland residents.

SB0245 Support Letter.pdf
Uploaded by: Shannon Nicholson
Position: FAV

Good Day:

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

I fully support the prevention of local governments, agencies or staff members from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement.

I strongly support requiring the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before July 1, 2026.

I have neighbors that are missing school to accompany their parents to work and to run errands – because they are wonderfully responsible and aware young adults that care about and want to protect their families. My children are hearing stories of trauma and pain that their classmates are going through. The fear and danger that my neighbors are in is terrifying, bewildering and un-American.

Cooperating with ICE and their use of heavy-handed tactics destroys the American fabric and erodes trust and fuels disenfranchisement.

For these reasons – I wholly support SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shannon Nicholson

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Shannon Taylor
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB0245 – 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 Shannon Taylor, and I am a community member from Catonsville, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

For a year ICE has been terrorizing my friends, and neighbors. The immigrant communities of Maryland have been living in fear that their families will be torn apart, and they will be taken from their home. I personally know people that are too afraid to drive in fear of getting caught in illegal immigrant enforcement activities. The state of Maryland should not be complicit in this fear mongering. Passing this legislation would be a good first step in showing that Maryland cares for all its residents, and will do what it can to protect them, and their loved ones.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Passing this legislation will provide a small bit of relief to immigrant communities who already have to fear their federal government. This legislation will be a powerful statement that they don’t have to fear their state government too.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shannon Taylor

912 Kent Ave

Catonsville, MD 21228

SB 245 FAV - WDC testimony - 19 JAN 2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Shelby Harper
Position: FAV

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB
P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827 www.womensdemocraticclub.org

SB 245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition
Judicial Proceedings Committee, January 22, 2026
SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club** (WDC) for the 2026 legislative session. Founded in 1956, WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. WDC is known for its advocacy for law and policy to improve the lives of women and their families.

WDC urges swift passage of **SB 245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.** We support its statewide ban prohibiting municipalities from entering into new immigration enforcement agreements and requiring termination of all active agreements.

Immigration enforcement agreements such as 287g agreements, in which local and state law enforcement are deputized by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with certain immigration enforcement powers, have no place in the State of Maryland. Such agreements make Marylanders demonstrably less safe in their communities.

As it exists today, ICE operates as a para-military force that engages in racial profiling, civil rights violations, family separation, and violence against immigrant communities and U.S. citizens. For people detained by ICE, it can be deadly. In 2025, 32 people died in ICE custody – the agency's worst year in more than two decades. Maryland law enforcement must not participate in or aid this lawless, deadly regime.

Cooperative agreements with ICE make it more difficult for local law enforcement to operate effectively; they drive a wedge between local law enforcement and the Maryland residents they serve. Many leaders in local law enforcement have spoken publicly on the dangers of immigration enforcement agreements with ICE. For example, in explaining his stance on immigration enforcement agreements, Montgomery County Police Chief Marc Yamada said, "We dedicate our local resources to crime prevention, crime solving and constitutional policing. In order to be effective, we need all members to trust local law enforcement and to help us prevent crime or other dangerous situations they observe." Trust in local law enforcement is critical to residents feeling safe in their communities and maintaining the communication that prevents and addresses crime.

WDC applauds the sponsors of **SB 245.** A statewide prohibition on immigration enforcement agreements between local law enforcement and ICE will improve community safety, enhance residents' trust in local law enforcement, and better protect the rights and safety of Maryland residents, immigrant and non-immigrant alike.

We ask for your support for SB 245 and strongly urge swift passage.

Cynthia Rubenstein
WDC President

Shelby Settles Harper
WDC Immigration Subcommittee

Kate Stein
WDC Advocacy Chair

SB0245_Sherry Glazer_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Sherry Glazer
Position: FAV

SB 0245 Sherry Glazer FAV

Hearing Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Sherry Glazer

My name is Sherry Glazer. I am a resident of District16. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 0245.

I am a retired lawyer and believe that immigration enforcement must be conducted in a lawful manner that is consistent with the US Constitution. I am also mindful of the Biblical injunction against harming the Stranger. This moral precept should guide all of us, regardless of our religious creed or lack of one. It requires all of us, including our elected officials, to refrain from aiding the Trump administration's vile deportation machine.

SB 0245 proposes to ban all Maryland counties from entering into formal contracts with the federal government under a provision in federal immigration law. These contracts would deputize police and correctional workers as arms of ICE. We must not let this happen. While the administration's stated purpose is to root out "the worst of the worst", in practice the results have been quite the opposite. Indeed, it seems clear that the Administration's purpose is to root out black and brown residents and Spanish-speaking residents, such as Maryland's own Kilmar Abrego Garcia. Were we to collaborate with Trump's ICE, we in Maryland would be complicit with the Administration's unconstitutional and racist tactics.

I have lived in Montgomery County for over 30 years and raised a family here. My children (now adults) attended Montgomery County public schools, received a fine education among a very diverse student body, and developed relationships with persons from a variety of backgrounds. I too have benefited from and enjoyed numerous activities as a result of the amazing multi-cultural community in which I have lived. It is painful to see ICE intimidating whole communities, separating families, and, in the most extreme cases, using violence against peaceful residents.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 0245.

SB245 Testimony Favorable Sonia Shah.pdf
Uploaded by: sonia shah
Position: FAV

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 Sonia Shah, and I am a resident of Towson, Maryland and am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

I have watched with fear and sorrow the brutality and carelessness with which the federal government is currently enforcing its mass deportation campaign. Immigration history is a subject of my work as a science journalist and author so I am also painfully aware of how campaigns of terror against immigrants have been used by nation-states in the past, from Idi Amin's Uganda to Nazi Germany.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

As an Indian-American woman, the daughter of immigrants from India and the spouse of an immigrant from Scotland, I feel personally unsafe from ICE violence, despite my status as a US citizen. I have imagined what it would be like to encounter ICE vehicles while driving and be unable to escape their indiscriminate violence, and what it would be like if my own elderly immigrant father was attacked and removed from his home, shackled and unclothed, as recently occurred to a Hmong man and US citizen in Minnesota.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Marylanders need to know that they can trust our local officials not to collude with ICE violence and terror. If our state officials collude with ICE violence today, the public's trust in our state infrastructure will be shattered forever–long after the Trump regime and its deportation campaign is over.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB 245 testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Sonja Fisher
Position: FAV

Sonja Lane Fisher

January 20, 2026

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee meeting, January 22, 2026

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

My name is Sonja Fisher, and I am a resident of Frederick City, in Frederick County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

As a Marylander, I have been shocked by the actions of counties, including Frederick, who chose to cooperate with ICE, which has been acting in a lawless and reckless fashion.

I believe that on the whole, our immigrant neighbors add value and vibrancy to Frederick, Maryland and our nation. 287g agreements are anathema to me.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sonja Fisher

Testimony 1-20-2026.pdf
Uploaded by: STACEY KRAMER
Position: FAV

Testimony for Record

Thank you for allowing me to testify on an issue that is on many Marylander's minds right now.

My name is Stacey Kramer. I have been a resident of Maryland for 30 years. The opinions I express in this testimony are my own and do not reprent the views of any organization I currently belong to or have previously belonged to.

Local agreements with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are costly and erode public trust in local enforcement. These agreements, often called 287(g), should be prohibited in Maryland.

287(g) agreements require local officers to be trained by ICE in either a local field office or an academy in South Carolina. While the federal government covers most of the cost associated with 287(g) training, local entities must account for the human resources necessary to maintain these agreements. These resources include administrative costs, onboarding new officers, or additional pay for overtime. When Maryland is already facing a tight budget, sllowing participation in this program opens that state up to a worsening budget deficit.

What Maryland receives when its counties participate in the 287(g) program is not an efficient reduction in crime, but an antagonistic relationship between the state and its people. This is because multiple investigations, including some performed by the Department of Justice, have concluded that constitutional violations increased in counties which participated in the 287(g) program. These agreements lead to a public perception that local authorities will violate Maryland residents' rights, eroding public trust in law enforcement.

Nearby counties, such as Prince William County in Virginia, have tallied these costs against the promised benefits of the 287(g) agreements, and decided they were not worthwhile. I argue that Maryland should take one step further, and remove all 287(g) agreements by July of this year.

Senate Testimony SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Stephanie Petrides
Position: FAV

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

My name is Stephanie and I'm a resident of Owings Mills, MD. I also work with a Homeless Outreach Program in Baltimore County. Several of the people I serve are immigrants. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**. I'm writing to speak up for my friends, neighbors, coworkers, strangers, and all of my compañeros. I am writing because I'm sick of wondering where our clients might be when they don't show up for several weeks, not knowing whether that person has been targeted or arrested for the non-crime of being an immigrant and experiencing homelessness.

287G agreements are not about crime or safety. How can something that prevents people from seeking out law enforcement due to fear help make people safer? They make communities less safe by discouraging citizens and non-citizens alike from reporting crimes or coming forward as witnesses, even if they are the victims of the crime. These agreements are about bigotry and power. They are about concentrating all forces to target the most vulnerable in our society. Even though a clean criminal record shouldn't be a condition of staying in this country (if that were true, you'd have to deport me), the vast majority of those targeted have NO criminal record, despite what Noem and the rest of MAGA continues to erroneously claim with their baseless fear-mongering. Maryland should NOT stand with them and contribute to the ongoing and, frankly, terrifying white supremacist takeover of our once-welcoming country.

As a queer, nonbinary, trans person, I've experienced first-hand how this administration has targeted and tried to erase my rights and personhood. The Supreme Court recently heard arguments over whether trans people, INCLUDING KIDS, should be able to play sports. KIDS. Our country is fighting over whether KIDS should be able to enjoy the basic freedoms provided at schools, all because of the hateful culture wars and absolute lies that are spouted by this increasingly cult-like administration. I won't stand for these bigoted attacks against people like myself and our rights or against any other person's basic humanity. That is why I'm writing today.

If ICE and the rest of MAGA continues unchecked, treating immigrants, minorities, and people experiencing homelessness like they are worth less than the dirt beneath their feet, there will be more names added to the ever-growing list that includes, among dozens of others, Carlos Roberto Montoya, Keith Porter Jr., and Renee Nicole Good. This isn't about right or left. It's about RIGHT and WRONG. It's about basic morality. If the very first state in this country can recognize these agreements as wrong, then Maryland should stand with them and set an example for the rest of the country in the fight for immigrants' rights and basic humanity. Let's show the rest of the country exactly what values and rights we hold dear. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

1.20.26 SB245 OPD Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Wolf

Position: FAV

MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

NATASHA DARTIGUE
PUBLIC DEFENDER
KEITH LOTRIDGE
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
HANNIBAL KEMERER
CHIEF OF STAFF
ELIZABETH HILLIARD
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

BILL: SB0245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender

POSITION: Favorable

DATE: January 22, 2026

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Committee issue a favorable report on SB245, to end 287(g) agreements in Maryland.

Since this bill was considered last year, 287(g) agreements have more than doubled from three Maryland counties to eight, covering a substantial portion of the state. These agreements have continued to undermine due process and target the least culpable individuals who have contact with the criminal legal system. Like a woman with decades living in the United States with no criminal history, who suffered a mental health crisis that led to her arrest on minor misdemeanor charges of trespassing in a 287(g) jurisdiction. She was deemed incompetent to stand trial, held in jail waiting for a hospital bed until she had served the maximum sentence for the minor offenses alleged and could be held no longer under state law, and then held for well over 48 hours before ICE picked her up.[1] Though an immigration attorney was ready to help her, in ICE custody she was denied the ability to communicate with that lawyer for weeks, despite persistent attempts. She was ultimately deported. Another longtime Maryland resident inadvertently missed a court date for driving uninsured in a *non*-287(g) jurisdiction, and a bench warrant was issued. A few days later, he was arrested on that warrant in a 287(g) jurisdiction, released immediately on his own recognizance by a commissioner due to the minor nature of the charge, but held and transferred to ICE custody.

[1] Though 287(g) agreements contemplate 48h of detention, many jurisdictions interpret this to exclude weekends and holidays, resulting in substantially longer stays.

287(g) Agreements Are Contrary to Maryland Values

287(g) agreements undermine due process and make innocence irrelevant, by *requiring* local law enforcement officials to screen, interrogate, detain without judicial authorization, and transfer into ICE custody for deportation, any arrested person suspected to be deportable under civil immigration law.[2] These agreements contain no exception for someone arrested based on mistaken identity, even if that person's case has been dismissed or they are found not guilty of the crime. There is no exception for a person accused only of a minor traffic offense, or for the victim of a false citizen complaint, or for an unhoused person accused of trespass while seeking shelter from the elements, or any of the other innumerable scenarios in which a person might be arrested despite being innocent or posing no real risk to public safety.

287(g) is an extremely ineffective tool for targeting people with serious convictions; but it is a powerful tool for funneling innocent people and those with very low level offenses into the deportation pipeline. This is because MD's 287(g) agreements only assist ICE in arresting people being released from a local detention center. People being released from a local detention centers are *not* the people who have been convicted of serious crimes that might constitute a risk to public safety—most of those people are released from the Division of Corrections after serving prison sentences, and therefore will never be impacted by a local 287(g) agreement. Far from being risks to public safety, the people being released from local detention centers—and therefore the people who are being arrested by ICE via 287(g) cooperation in MD—have generally either:

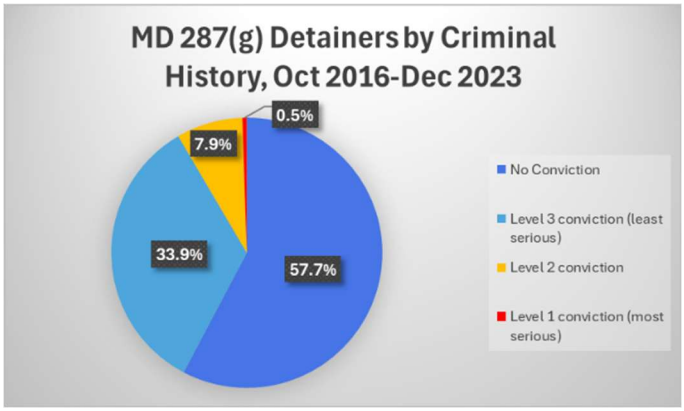
1) been found not guilty;
2) had their charges dismissed or placed on the stet docket;
3) been released by a judicial officer while awaiting their day in court, based on the judge or commissioner's determination that the release conditions can reasonably ensure their appearance in court and public safety[3]; or
4) completed a short local sentence for a less serious offense.

[2] The group of people that ICE deems 'deportable' has expanded rapidly in the past year, and is not limited to those who entered the United States without permission. More than 1.5 million people who had been living in the United States with authorization, many of whom applied for and received permission to enter in advance, have lost protections over the last year. *See* Figueroa, Ariana, "Trump cancelled temporary legal status for more than 1.5 million immigrants in 2025," WLRN Public Media, Dec. 29, 2025.

[3] *See* Md. Rule 4-216.

Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division, 45 Calvert St, Suite 108, Annapolis MD 21401
For further information please contact Elizabeth Hilliard, Elizabeth.hilliard@maryland.gov 443-507-8414.

The data bears this out, both in Maryland and nationwide. From October of 2016-December of 2023, only *four* of the 771 287(g) detainers in Maryland were for defendants with the most serious "Level 1" convictions.[4] The majority, 445, were for people with no conviction at all, and the overwhelming majority—706 out of 771, or 92%--were for people with either no conviction or only the least serious "Level 3" conviction, which includes traffic offenses and other minor misdemeanors.[5]



See n. 4 for data source

Nationally, over the same seven year period, less than two percent of detainers issued under 287(g) programs were for people convicted of "Level 1" offenses, and 82% were issued for those with either no criminal conviction or only a minor "Level 3" conviction. Updated data is not available, because, while ICE still uses a ranking system of 'level 1' through 'level 3,' they now assign these levels based not on the person's actual criminal convictions, but on a much more nebulous assessment that anticipates convictions that have not actually happened.[6] However, there is no reason to think that the criminal history of the noncitizens booked into and released from local jails—the population impacted by 287(g) agreements in MD—would have changed substantially in recent years.

Allowing ICE to use our criminal legal system as a dragnet and force multiplier does not reduce ICE enforcement in the community; it simply frees up ICE's resources to terrorize communities in other ways. Under a Jail Enforcement Model 287(g) agreement, ICE outsources to local officials the tasks of identifying potential noncitizens, investigating the subject's immigration status, preparing the administrative detainer and warrant paperwork, and perhaps generating a

[4] This is drawn from the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse's Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detainers Tool, available at https://tracreports.org/phptools/immigration/newdetain/. Additional information on the source of the data is available here: https://tracreports.org/phptools/immigration/newdetain/about_data.html. These numbers were obtained by filtering by State: Maryland; Apprehension Method: 287(g) Program; and Seriousness Level of MSCC (Most Serious Criminal Conviction).

[5] *Id.*

[6] *See* Blair, Graeme, David Hausman, and Phil Neff, "Immigration and Customs Enforcement Individual-Level Data: An Introduction," December 2025 (defining Detainer Prep Threat Level field).

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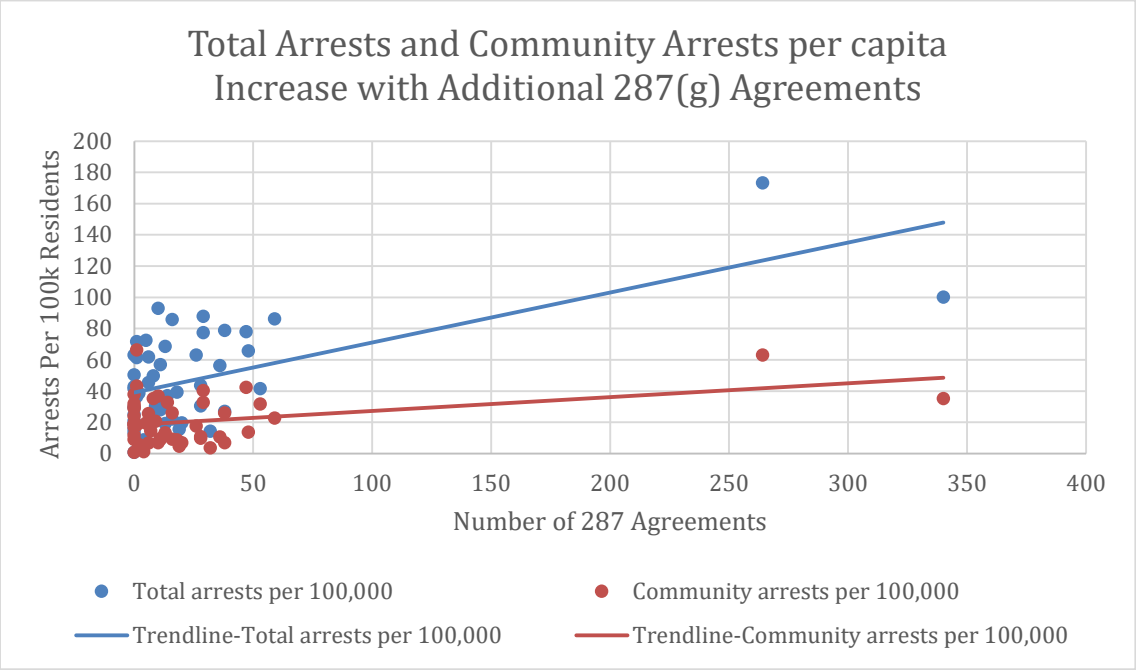
For further information please contact Elizabeth Hilliard, Elizabeth.hilliard@maryland.gov 443-507-8414.

Notice to Appear in removal proceedings. Under both the JEM and Warrant Service Officer model agreements, local jails do the administrative work of serving ICE warrants, and provide two (or more) days of housing, food, medical care, and staff supervision. While serving a single warrant is not a lengthy process, in the aggregate it is a real time burden, as evidenced by the many Maryland jurisdictions that have a considerable backlog in serving local criminal warrants on already-incarcerated people, due to staffing shortages. Holding ICE detainees at local expense, while much of the administrative work that accompanies an ICE arrest is completed by local officials, frees up both time and space in ICE's Baltimore holding room that ICE can use to make additional arrests.

The numbers from around the country support the idea that ICE cooperation via 287(g) agreements simply frees up ICE resources to increase other types of enforcement, as **an increase in the number of 287(g) agreements in a state is correlated not only with more ICE arrests per capita overall, but also with *more* ICE arrests in the community** (meaning, arrests of individuals who were not already in custody).[7]



See n. 6 for data source.

[7] This chart compares the number of 287(g) agreements a state has (using ice.gov data as analyzed here), with the number of (1) community ICE arrests and (2) total ICE arrests in the state from 1/20/25-10/15/2025 (according to FOIA'd records available here, as analyzed here) per 100k residents (using U.S. Census Bureau 2024 population estimates). The trendlines illustrate that having more 287(g) agreements is correlated not only with higher arrests overall, but also with higher community arrests.

Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division, 45 Calvert St, Suite 108, Annapolis MD 21401
For further information please contact Elizabeth Hilliard, Elizabeth.hilliard@maryland.gov 443-507-8414.

287(g) agreements hand the reins of local law enforcement over to ICE and the federal government, replacing Maryland's priorities with national politics. There is no question that ICE's current marching orders are to step up its use of all available tools, including 287(g), to detain and remove as many people as possible, even those who are innocent and/or pose no risk to public safety. While 287(g) programs have always given ICE the ability to detain the innocent and the lowest level offenders, ICE has in the past exercised at least some degree of forbearance, sometimes declining to arrest those who were not removal priorities. This has likely limited the damage done by 287(g) programs. However, the guidance instructing ICE to prioritize removal of those deemed a risk to public safety, national security, or border security, was repealed by Executive Order on January 20, 2025,[8] and recent events provide ample evidence ICE's indiscriminate arrests of those with little or no criminal history, as well as those who are US citizens or otherwise lawfully present in the United States.[9]

287(g) agreements undermine state and local efforts to reassure terrified communities that they can trust law enforcement and the legal system more broadly. A community that fears engagement with law enforcement is vulnerable, and widespread fear hinders the effective enforcement of Maryland criminal law. For the same reasons that it was important to protect courthouses to the extent possible from becoming associated with the risk of an ICE arrest in last year's Values Act, it is important to ensure that local law enforcement is clearly separated from ICE in the eyes of Maryland residents. This separation is impossible to maintain—both in perception and in reality—when a local jail has a 287(g) agreement, even when particular police agencies operating within that jurisdiction have taken pains to distance themselves from immigration enforcement and build community trust. Demanding that our law enforcement agencies abandon 287(g) agreements and instead prioritize enforcing Maryland laws, on the other hand, preserves public trust and ultimately protects public safety.

For all of these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on SB245.

Submitted by: Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division.
Authored by: Stephanie Wolf, Director of Immigration Services, stephanie.wolf@maryland.gov.

[8] *See* Exec. Order No. 14159, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (January 20, 2025), "Protecting the American People from Invasion."

[9] According to the Cato Institute, 73% of ICE arrestees in FY25 had no conviction at all; only 5% had been convicted of a violent crime. *See* Bier, David, "5% of People Detained by ICE Have Violent Convictions; 73% No Convictions," November 24, 2025.

Anne Arundel County _FAV_SB245.pdf
Uploaded by: Steuart Pittman
Position: FAV

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
MARYLAND
County Executive Steuart Pittman

January 22, 2026

Senate Bill 245

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition. This Bill would prohibit local jurisdictions from entering into agreements that authorize the state, local government, or any of their agents, officers, or employees to enforce civil immigration law.

When I took office, Anne Arundel County was one of three Maryland counties that participated in the program authorized under Section 287(g) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act, commonly known as 287g. Under 287g, county detention staff working under the supervision of an ICE program manager screened prisoners for immigration status during intake at the Jennifer Road Detention Center, after individuals were already in custody for committing a crime. While the information about each foreign-born detainee was entered into the ICE database, not a single individual was actually turned over to ICE custody until the crime for which they were arrested was adjudicated, whether that crime was violent or minor. In other words, those criminals served their time in jail, regardless of the 287g program. Without the 287g program, ICE still would have detained these same individuals, because they knew someone was in custody within an hour of arrest through information sharing with the Department of Homeland Security.

I made the decision to terminate our County's 287g agreement based on feedback from our public safety professionals and community members. Anne Arundel County and Maryland have been shaken by the gruesome murders of young Latino residents by members of MS-13, which extorts payments from immigrants who fear the prospect of being deported. Our police department understands that the only way to put MS-13 out of business locally is to protect and win the trust of the people MS-13 preys upon. Many of these people fled El Salvador and other Central American countries seeking asylum from the gang violence that has terrorized their communities. Most are here working in local businesses, paying taxes, and hoping that the great American political pendulum swings back to the place where immigrants were given a path to citizenship, as they were during the presidency of Ronald Reagan. These people fear ICE, and while our police were not deputized to act as agents of ICE, the community was well aware that our detention staff played that role. Therefore, members of our immigrant communities often made a decision to avoid interacting with the police, for fear that family and friends would be vulnerable to ICE deportation. That was an obstacle to our police department's efforts to protect

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Affairs Phone: 410-222-3687 Email:exhunt23@aacounty.org

these communities and all residents from MS-13 and other threats to their safety.

Ending 287g in Anne Arundel County aligned us with the vast majority of counties across the state and country. It did not increase crime as the program's advocates claimed it would, nor it did hinder the legal enforcement activities ICE undertakes. What it did do was separate criminal law enforcement and immigration enforcement, a longstanding principle espoused by politicians across the political spectrum. Anne Arundel County, as do most counties, continues to cooperate with ICE through a federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program known as Secure Communities.

Given our own experience with 287g in Anne Arundel County, I do not believe it to be a program that is effective, nor a responsible use of local resources. In our own case, it actually proved to be a hindrance to protecting our residents and an impediment to enforcing criminal laws. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 245.

Steuart Pittman
County Executive

Peter Baron, Government Affairs Officer Phone: 443.685.5198 Email: Peter.Baron@aacounty.org

In Favor of SB0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Stevan Fisher
Position: FAV

Outlook

[Draft] **In Favor of SB0245**

From

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

My name is Stevan Fisher, a resident of the City of Frederick, and I am writing in support of SB0245 regarding – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition. As an American citizen born abroad to native-born US citizens, I feel especially sensitive to racial and ethnic profiling. Immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear among immigrants and undermine public safety for our Maryland communities without any increase in effectiveness; people detained for criminal activity are already checked and reported to the relevant Federal authorities. I support SB0245 because when law-abiding people fear contact with law enforcement, even when they are the victims of crime, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses.

The instances of US citizens and lawful green-card holders (and, as has happened in Minnesota, Native Americans) being caught up, imprisoned, and their rights abused during the current Federal sweeps are increasing, and I would hate to think that LEOs in the Old Line State would aid and abet the ongoing deportation of peaceful community members to achieve the dubious goals of a de facto ethnic cleansing.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead burden local agencies with federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods. Prohibition of these agreements would improve trust in community policing not just within a vulnerable population, but among the general population as well.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB0245. It is the American thing to do.

Thank you for your time,

Stevan Fisher
Frederick, Maryland

SB245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Steve Holt
Position: FAV

MEPPN
Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

TESTIMONY - FAVORABLE

SB245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: The Rev. Steve Holt, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN)

DATE: January 22, 2026

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

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network offers favorable testimony in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition. Our congregations serve people throughout Maryland, including immigrant communities who have been directly affected by the current administration's punitive and lawless approach to enforcement.

SB 245 is about affirming what our churches teach about respecting the dignity and worth of every human being, and welcoming the stranger among us. This bill seeks to ensure that our state is not in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. We believe Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. It diverts local law enforcement away from their primary role of protecting public safety and erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. When trust is broken, community safety suffers.

For these reasons, the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

SB0245_StevenFeit_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Steven Feit
Position: FAV

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Steven Feit
Silver Spring, MD 20901

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: Steven Feit

My name is Steven Feit, and I am a resident of District 20 in the Montgomery Knolls neighborhood of Silver Spring. **I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.**

I would like to thank the Chair, my District 20 Senator Will Smith, for his longstanding commitment and support of ending 287(g) agreements in Maryland. I moved to Silver Spring three years ago with my wife and I am thrilled that we have found such a wonderful community in which to put down roots and raise our almost 2-year-old child.

The biggest threat to our community right now is ICE. They are terrorizing immigrant Marylanders, particularly in our neighborhood, which has become one of the most targeted areas in the state for ICE enforcement. It often feels helpless watching ICE abduct our neighbors and community members, so it is imperative that our state legislature takes whatever actions are within our control to protect our community members.

One such action is ending 287(g) agreements, which allow local law enforcement to deputize local police to act as ICE agents, enabling them to detain people based only on their immigration status. The number of Maryland counties with 287(g) agreements has grown from 3 to 8 just in the last year, as local sheriffs demand to collaborate with the Trump administration. While I am glad that Montgomery County is not one of them, our neighbors should be able to travel freely throughout the state, particularly to neighboring Frederick County, without additional fear of being profiled and detained.

While prohibiting local and state 287(g) agreements does not stop ICE agents themselves, it is essential that the General Assembly takes this step to prevent local collaboration with this brutality. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.**

SB245 SSJC fav.pdf
Uploaded by: Susaanti Follingstad
Position: FAV

Testimony on SB 245 - 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,

Silver Spring Justice Coalition offers **favorable** testimony in support of **SB-245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

The Silver Spring Justice Coalition is an organization of community members, faith groups, and civil and human rights organizations from throughout Montgomery County that works to reduce the presence of police in our communities; eliminate violence and harm by police; establish transparency and accountability; and redirect public funds toward community needs.

This bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill 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 remain focussed on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

Our immigrant community is under siege by federal government actions. Places in Montgomery County that used to bustle are empty and quiet because immigrants (and some who might be perceived as immigrants) are afraid to venture out for fear of a chance encounter with federal officials or local law enforcement. Immigrants are having food delivered by local mutual aid groups, getting others to take their children to school (or keeping them home), setting up Standby Guardianship for their children in case the parents are detained or deported, and even afraid to answer their phones or open their door to anyone they do not know.

Immigrants are also increasingly fearful of going to required government appointments, where they could be detained or face deportation to a third country, which ensures they are targeted and face deportation if found.

Thus it is vital that the State minimize the daily risks immigrants face by protecting them from encounters with federal actions in as many ways as possible.

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts 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, such as in domestic violence cases. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

It was bad enough when three counties in Maryland had 287(g) programs. In the last year, that has increased to eight counties, which spreads the negative consequences to more communities and to those passing through them. And we know that the current federal administration wants to expand 287(g) programs, which are problematic as is, to include investigation and interrogation, further diverting our law enforcement personnel from their local duties. Under the earlier 287(g) programs, we've seen a husband and father deported after a flat tire because of a civil immigration violation.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we support a clean bill which will end 287(g) agreements in Maryland, and not to create or mandate new forms of collaboration with ICE. Local jurisdictions already have the discretion to engage with ICE if they choose; ending 287(g) agreements does not limit that existing authority. We strongly support a clean bill that simply terminates 287(g) agreements in Maryland. This is what will bring Maryland closer to our values.

For these reasons, the **Silver Spring Justice Coalition** adamantly urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Susaanti Follingstad
Silver Spring Justice Coalition Steering Committee
Rockville MD 20851

SB245 Immigration Enforcement Favorable Allen.pdf
Uploaded by: Susan Allen
Position: FAV

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 **Susan Allen** and I am a **resident of Anne Arundel County, Maryland**. I am writing in support of **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

People in my immediate family have recently become naturalized U.S. citizens and my neighbors and local business owners in Annapolis have recently arrived from other countries.

I support **SB 245** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Legitimate fear of ICE enforcement concerns many local churches and affects my friends in Frederick, MD, who have witnessed ICE actions. My church St. Anne's Episcopal has trained on strategies to deal with ICE agents if they should occupy our church during Sunday services.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Anne Arundel County residents and elected officials have made it clear through legislation and action that we don't want ICE enforcement here.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Susan Allen
3463 Rockway Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-626-2068
Susanallen0@mac.com

SB 0245_Susan Tafler_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Susan Tafler
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026
Susan W. Tafler
Odenton MD 21113

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: Susan W. Tafler

My name is Susan W. Tafler. I am a resident of District 21. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 0245, Public Safety--Immigration Enforcement Agreements--Prohibition.

Thank you to Senators Smith, Ferguson, and Lewis Young for sponsoring a bill to prohibit the State, a local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement.

I am the granddaughter of four immigrants from Eastern Europe who came to America for freedom from forced conscription and freedom from arrest for unionizing activities as well as better economic opportunities and safety from antisemitic pogroms. They came to America in the 1910s, before the restrictive immigration laws of the 1920s (and later) were enacted. If my grandparents had been forced to stay in Eastern Europe or sent back from America, my parents, uncles, and aunts would not have been born as US citizens and likely would have perished in the Holocaust. And I, who was born in 1947, would likely never have been born.

As a Jew guided by our sacred texts, I am mindful that the Bible commands us: "When strangers [immigrants] reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The sojourners who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19: 33-34).

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the primary agency terrorizing immigrant Marylanders. ICE has created 287(g) agreements with county sheriffs or police, to deputize them to act as ICE agents. I find it alarming that eight Maryland counties currently have 287(g) agreements, and I believe that we must stop that collaboration and prohibit state and local law enforcement from entering into these agreements. Such 287(g) agreements undermine public safety, make brown and Black communities targets for racial profiling, and turn local law enforcement into enablers of ICE's brutal attacks. While prohibiting local and state 287(g) agreements will not stop ICE agents themselves, it will be essential to prevent collaboration with this brutality. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 0245.**

Takoma Park 2026 - SB 245 FAV - Prohibition on Imm

Uploaded by: Talisha Searcy

Position: FAV

CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support Senate Bill 245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings, January 22, 2026

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill, which prohibits the state, county and other units of local government from entering into certain federal immigration enforcement agreements, known as the 287(g) program, which concern cooperation with federal immigration law enforcement.

The City of Takoma Park has nearly 18,000 residents within 2.4 square miles and is proud of its rich diversity—about one-third of its population was born outside the United States. The City has made significant efforts to ensure that all residents, regardless of background or immigration status, feel safe and supported. The Takoma Park Police Department does not participate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. The City's Municipal Code prohibits police and other city employees from inquiring about or sharing information regarding a person's citizenship or immigration status, unless specifically required by law, and strictly forbids discrimination based on citizenship or immigration status. These policies build trust with local law enforcement, particularly among our immigrant population, ensuring everyone feels safe seeking help and reporting crime.

Given recent increases in federal immigration enforcement activities, it is crucial for all state and local law enforcement agencies to have consistent policies and approaches regarding their involvement in immigration enforcement. Our residents travel throughout the state. Having different immigration enforcement procedures across the state causes confusion for both residents and officials, rather than providing any real benefit to anyone.

Building trust between law enforcement and all residents is essential, particularly to ensure that immigrant communities are not subject to unequal or discriminatory treatment under federal, state, or local laws. When trust is undermined, it jeopardizes the safety, security, and well-being of everyone in our community, erodes confidence in law enforcement, and makes it more difficult for our local police to effectively do their jobs. SB 245 is one important step in ensuring that consistency for our residents. We support the prompt enactment of this bill into law, and hope for a favorable Committee action.

City Contact: Talisha Searcy, Mayor
talishas@takomaparkmd.gov

SB245 - End 287g agreements.docx.pdf
Uploaded by: Tamara Todd
Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of **District 10. I am testifying in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

The End 287g Agreements Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in eight Maryland counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including: increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resulting "chilling effect" in Hispanic communities.[1] Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program"[2] Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who "posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%."[3]

The last Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite urban areas citing costs and the impact on community relations. DHS removed expiration dates and other guardrails that provided any attempted reforms and changes to the agreements under the Obama administration[4]. The current administration has continued to remove restrictions and oversight of ICE, leading inevitably to the horrifying murder of Renee Good in Minneapolis. While we've yet to see similar violence in Maryland, every additional encounter between Marylanders and ICE increases the chance of such an incident. Our local law enforcement should not be initiating these encounters.

Maryland's large immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing $8 billion in federal and $4 billion in state taxes, providing $2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power[5]. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.

Sincerely,
Tamara Todd
221 Northway Rd, Reisterstown MD 21136

[1] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018
[2] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1
[3] The 287(g) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council
[4] License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); April, 26, 2022
[5] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council
[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB245 - End 287g agreements.docx.pdf
Uploaded by: Taylor Smith-Hams
Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of District 43A and **I am writing in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

The End 287g Agreements Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in eight Maryland counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including: increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

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Sincerely,
Taylor Smith-Hams
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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[1] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018
[2] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1
[3] The 287(g) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council
[4] License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); April, 26, 2022
[5] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council
[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

SB245 - End 287g agreements_TH.pdf
Uploaded by: Theresa M. Hoffman
Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of District 43b. **I am testifying in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

The End 287g Agreements Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in eight Maryland counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including: increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

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It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB245 - The End 287g Agreements Act.

Sincerely,
Theresa M. Hoffman
803 Seaword Rd., Towson, MD 21286
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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[1] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018
[2] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1
[3] The 287(g) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council
[4] License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); April, 26, 2022
[5] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council
[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

287g Tom.pdf
Uploaded by: Thomas Pollack
Position: FAV

RE: SB 245 Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition

Favorable

Thomas Pollack

260120 SB0245 Testimony - Potyraj.pdf
Uploaded by: Thomas Potyraj
Position: FAV

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB245

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Organization: Thomas Potyraj (self)

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 22, 2026

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

My name is Thomas Potyraj. I am a resident of Catonsville. I support SB0245 prohibiting the state from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement.

According to Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler: "The 287(g) is a program was brought in by President Bill Clinton in the '90s… [It was] accepted in by President Obama, a Democrat. But now it's evil because President Trump is in the White House."

These are not normal times. As part of the Trump administration's sweeping deportation efforts, ICE agents have been increasingly involved in violent confrontations with migrants and US citizens as part of the agency's shift to more aggressive immigration enforcement.

This is obvious from the recent killing of Renee Good, who was shot multiple times by Jonathan Ross, an ICE agent. President Trump falsely claimed that the ICE agent was recovering in the hospital after being run down by Renee Good. It would seem appropriate that an investigation be performed into the shooting. However, the Justice Department refused to do so. This would appear to be a coverup of events so that the agency can avoid accountability.

Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler says that "The 287(g) is not a law enforcement program". However, there is nothing to say that 287(g) does NOT apply to law enforcement. In these days of executive overreach, it is not unthinkable that boundaries can be shifted to meet the needs of the moment… particularly if they promote President Trump's agenda. Jonathan Ross was not held accountable for the shooting of Renee Good. Does this mean that law enforcement officers might not be held accountable for their actions, if they can claim that the actions were performed under the aegis of ICE?

Therefore, I support SB0245 prohibiting the state from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement.

FAVORABLE SB0245_Tiffany Wandy.pdf
Uploaded by: Tiffany Wandy
Position: FAV

SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Tiffany Wandy and I am a resident of Churchville, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I care deeply about this issue because effective local policing depends on trust, clarity of purpose, and accountability. Local law enforcement officers are hired, trained, and funded to protect public safety, prevent crime, and serve their communities—not to enforce federal civil immigration laws. When local police are asked to take on immigration enforcement responsibilities, it blurs roles, stretches already limited resources, and undermines the core mission they are meant to fulfill.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

In communities where local law enforcement is perceived as an extension of federal immigration enforcement, residents often withdraw from civic life and avoid interaction with authorities altogether. This fear does not stay confined to undocumented individuals—it spreads to families, neighbors, and entire communities, making it harder for police to do their jobs and for communities to remain safe.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from community protection and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Prohibiting these agreements would allow local police to remain focused on the responsibilities they were hired to perform, while helping rebuild trust with the communities they serve. When residents trust that local officers are there to protect—not to deport—they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate in investigations, and seek assistance without fear. This trust is essential for effective policing and safer communities across Maryland.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Tim Rothermel
Position: FAV

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 Tim Rothermel and I am a resident of Cecil County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I support SB 245 because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

I support this legislation because the unjust targeting of the immigrant community in Cecil has led to my community being less safe. Folks are afraid to work with law enforcement to stop real violent criminals, which is understandable given the threats that immigration enforcement activities have created for them. Not only that, I have seen the 287g agreement rip a father from his special needs son. Now a young child, who has been hospitalized many times, must go without his father. A father who was only accused of a crime, but later had all charges against him dropped in court.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Timothy Rothermel

30 Cara Cove Road

North East, MD 21901

SB0245 IMM Agree DITZ FAV 2026 .pdf
Uploaded by: Toby Ditz
Position: FAV

Jan 22, 2026
Toby Ditz
Baltimore, Maryland 21217

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: Toby Ditz

My name is Toby Ditz, and I have lived in Baltimore City's District 40 for over nearly forty years. This testimony is in support **of SB 0245.**

I am deeply committed to this legislation partly because I am the grandchild of Jewish immigrants. Our tradition teaches that we must welcome the stranger as neighbors and as equals. Jews have had to flee many times in our history. In my family, my maternal grandmother, Helen, escaped in 1919 from Russia in the midst of civil war and in the company of her mother and older sister; they fled across the rapidly closing Polish border to Amsterdam and then entered the US through Ellis Island. Had they tried to come here only ten years later, after US immigration policy choked off the flow of immigrants from Eastern Europe, I would not be here.

The gates of immigration once again opened after1965, but instead of "welcoming the stranger," we are now in an era of massive backlash. President Trump's aggressive deployment of federal law enforcement officers is so indiscriminate, so violent, and so lawless that it shocks the conscience. As events in Minnesota show, they threaten the very lives of citizens and protesters as well as immigrants.

These enforcement operations are gradually but steadily increasing in our state. Maryland must now do all that it lawfully can to avoid cooperating with ICE and other federal agents. SB0245 will help protect all residents. In the end, local law enforcement officers will also be better off. According to the Maryland Attorney General's guidelines, even when local police and sheriffs enter into agreements with federal agencies, hey must follow Maryland law—for

example, our strict standards for use of force and body cameras. Local law enforcement officers deputized by ICE or other federal agencies will inevitably face dilemmas as to whose policies to follow. In Maryland, we have worked hard to reform police practices, to bolster unbiased, constitutional policing. Agreements with federal agencies to enforce civil immigration law are a huge step backward for our state and make our law officers complicit in lawless federal overreach.

Let us welcome the stranger. Let us protect all of Marylanders against thuggery in the guise of federal law enforcement. **I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0245.**

FAVORABLE SB0245_TracieUlmes.pdf
Uploaded by: Tracie Ulmes
Position: FAV

Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Prohibition on Face Covering

January 22, 2026

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Tracie Ulmes and I am a resident of Harford County and employee of Harford County Public Schools. I am writing in support of SB0245, Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Prohibition on Face Covering**.**

As a parent of school-aged children and a substitute teacher working in the public schools, the idea of masked agents coming into one of our school buildings horrifies me. I hate that students and other members of our community can be scooped up from their public lives in the first place; however, agents being able to hide their identity and avoid accountability is terrifying. We have seen examples of agents acting in bad faith and even violently; if they can hide behind a mask, many will feel even more empowered to terrorize our communities.

Before 2015, immigration agents rarely wore masks except when undercover or during certain targeted actions. Normalizing masks has endangered public safety. Multiple states have arrested people impersonating ICE agents for devious purposes. In some cases masked, plain-clothes agents have been mistaken for criminals, creating fear, chaos, and confusion. Most importantly, masking has contributed to a feeling of impunity among certain agents, leading to increased aggression and violence on the part of those agents.

Seeing images of residents and workers being grabbed by masked, armed men, and taken away to unknown locations raises the image of authoritarian, secret police – so hard to believe here in America and in Maryland. Banning the use of masks by ICE and CBP agents will go a long way to alleviate fear and distrust among residents and will help restore faith that agents will be held accountable when their actions exceed their authority, becoming illegal and unconstitutional.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on favorable report on SB0245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tracie Ulmes

Joppa, MD

SWASC - SB245-26 - FAV Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: UM SWASC
Position: FAV

SOCIAL WORK ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

SWASC

For more information, please contact
Noah Offenbacher
umswasc@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 245

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

Social Work Advocates for Social Change strongly supports SB 245, which will prohibit the State, any local unit of government in Maryland, and their agencies from entering into federal immigration enforcement agreements. The bill will help protect public safety and trust, prevent racial profiling, and preserve state and local resources.

At its core, SB 245 is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice - for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing apart families, undermining public trust, and diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

287(g) agreements contribute to escalating fears surrounding immigration enforcement in Maryland. Over the course of 2025, the number of Maryland counties engaged in 287(g) agreements increased from three to eight.[1] This increased collaboration between local law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) comes alongside an alarming rise in immigration enforcement actions across the country. According to data compiled by the Deportation Data Project, ICE arrests in Maryland nearly tripled between 2024 and 2025, with 3,308 arrests occurring between January 1, 2025 and October 15, 2025 - compared to 1,353 arrests in 2024.[2] More ICE arrests mean more families separated and community members removed from Maryland neighborhoods. Collaboration between local law enforcement and ICE intensifies the fear experienced by Maryland's immigrant communities, undermining the trust between local law enforcement and the communities they are supposed to protect.

ICE and other federal agencies are pushing a mass deportation agenda that is threatening the safety of undocumented immigrants, those with status, and U.S. citizens alike. Immigrant communities in Maryland fear ICE's impunity, and many no longer feel that legal status grants them protection. Kilmar Ábrego García's wrongful detention and deportation by ICE intensified these fears and underscores the risk that all Maryland residents currently face.[3] Banning 287(g) and other such agreements prevents an unnecessarily expanded ICE footprint in Maryland and will reduce the destructive impacts of its tactics.

287(g) agreements undermine the primary law enforcement function of protecting public safety. When immigrant communities view local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement as entangled, they are less likely to report crimes or seek help. Fear of family separation and unlawful detainment further inhibits these residents from engaging with public services, including public education and seeking health care for critical needs. As discussed during the December 2025 Spending Affordability Committee meeting, student enrollment in Maryland public schools - particularly for English language learners - has fallen below state projections, which DLS attributes to federal immigration actions.

SOCIAL WORK ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

SWASC

For more information, please contact
Noah Offenbacher
umswasc@gmail.com

Abolishing the 287(g) program upholds the dignity of Maryland's immigrant residents. Members of Social Work Advocates for Social Change support immigrants in a direct service capacity and witness the growing fears of ICE enforcement across the state. Individuals report fear of picking their children up from school, filling pharmacy prescriptions, and keeping in-person doctor's appointments. 287(g) is denying these Marylanders freedom of movement and the security to participate in public life without persistent fear of an ICE encounter.

SB 245 will work as a guardrail against discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or perceived immigration status. The 287(g) program has a documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. In Maryland, a study of Frederick County's 287(g) implementation revealed that the agreement enabled local law enforcement to target and arrest Latino community members at higher rates.[4] Sara Medrano's 2021 case exemplifies these discriminatory practices permitted by the Frederick County's Sheriff's Office under 287(g).[5] Officers arrested Medrano, a Frederick County resident, during a traffic stop, claiming her car had a "broken" taillight. There was no damage to Medrano's car, and she later successfully sued Sheriff Jenkins for racial profiling and illegal detention. Ending 287(g) would prevent unlawful encounters like Medrano's and protect Maryland residents.

287(g) agreements are established at a cost to the State and local governments. When local law enforcement cooperates with federal immigration authorities, individuals suspected of immigration violations, often arrested for non-violent offenses, may be held for extended periods while awaiting transfer to ICE custody. Additionally, personnel costs - including salaries, benefits, supplies, and overtime - draw on state and local government resources.[6] We cannot afford to take on the fiscal burden of these federal duties at the expense of Marylanders. SB 245 would help prevent these unnecessary expenses by limiting such detentions and ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used effectively and with thoughtful discretion.

For these reasons, **Social Work Advocates for Social Change urges the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.**

Social Work Advocates for Social Change is a coalition of MSW students at the University of Maryland School of Social Work that seeks to promote equity and justice through public policy, and to engage the communities impacted by public policy in the policymaking process.

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[1] U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. *287(g) Participating Agencies.* Accessed January 19, 2026. Retrieved from https://www.ice.gov/identify-and-arrest/287g

[2] Government data provided by ICE in response to a FOIA request, processed by the Deportation Data Project. Accessed January 19, 2026. Retrieved from https://deportationdata.org/data/processed/ice.html

[3] Miroff, Nick. "An 'Administrative Error' Sends a Maryland Father to a Salvadoran Prison." *The Atlantic*. https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/an-administrative-error-sends-a-man-to-a-salvadoran-prison/682254/

[4] Coon, Michael. (2018, August 8). Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population. *Journal on Migration and Human Security*. Vol. 5, no. 3, pp. 645–666. https://doi.org/10.1177/233150241700500305.

[5] ACLU of Maryland. *Medrano v. Jenkins.* Retrieved from https://www.aclu-md.org/cases/medrano-v-jenkins/

[6] American Immigration Council. (2025, January). *The 287(g) Program: An Overview.* Retrieved from https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/the_287g_program_an_overview.pdf

FAVORABLE SB0245_Valerie Hodge-Williams.pdf
Uploaded by: Val Hodge-Williams
Position: FAV

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 Valerie Hodge-Williams, and I am a resident of Garrett County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I am writing to express my support for SB0245 - Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition. As a Garrett County resident, I appreciate small-town life: its community, connectedness, and freedom from the fear of violence and intimidation. Emphatically, I do not want our local law enforcement—whom we currently trust—bringing in federal ICE officers— whom we do not. Our small community doesn't need the presence of highly armed, minimally trained ICE employees who neither know our residents, nor care for them, to change the peaceful tenor of our lives into one of dread and fear.

Maryland counties without 287g agreements have had greater drops in crime rates than those counties with 287g agreements: Frederick, Cecil, and Carroll. No community members should feel unsafe reaching out to local law enforcement to report a crime as a witness or victim; with 287g agreements, many will remain silent. Frederick County's Sheriff Jenkins' years of 287g partnership has eroded local trust and brought the county under scrutiny with lawsuits for racial profiling.

Furthermore, police detention of individuals found innocent of any crime, or released by the courts on bail, is a violation of constitutional rights.

The vast majority of 287g detainees are non-criminals, who leave behind families and children without breadwinners and caregivers. This is not only terribly traumatic for children, but also creates an unnecessary burden on the state – to support and care for the US children remaining. Instead of spending local funding on manpower and jails to remove non-criminal parents from their children, these funds should be used to help improve schools, childcare, children's hospitals and services.

I have heard the argument that 287g agreement protect the community from additional ICE intervention and arrests. Nationally, this has not been true. States that cooperate with ICE have by far the highest arrest rates, mostly of non-criminal residents, since state law enforcement provides the manpower and jails. A December 2025 analysis of ICE arrest data shows that "…the impact of state and local strategies to block ICE access to jails is visible in data from Illinois, New York, and Oregon, where ICE arrests remain lower than other states… the data, which show significantly smaller jumps in arrest rates in states where advocates have most aggressively worked to reject collaboration, and much higher rates in states that have embraced it." (Data obtained via FOIA request and processed by the Deportation Data Project & analyzed by the Prison Policy Initiative https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2025/12/11/ice-jails-update/). The single exception to this was New Jersey, in which local sheriffs continued to cooperate with ICE outside of the banned 287g agreement. These results from other states show the need for a supplemental bill to forbid officers from working against Maryland's protections of immigrants.

It is for these reasons that I ask you to vote in support of SB0245.

"And then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out for me."
—*First They Came* by Pastor Martin Niemoller

Testimony SB#0245-favorable-VickiGottlich.pdf
Uploaded by: Vicki Gottlich
Position: FAV

January 20, 2026

Vicki Gottlich
Rockville, MD 20850

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB# 0245 - PUBLIC SAFETY-IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS-PROHIBITION

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

FROM: Vicki Gottlich

My name is Vicki Gottlich, and I live in District 17. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

Allowing local Maryland law enforcement agencies to enter into 287(g) agreements with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency goes against my religious beliefs and practices. Leviticus 19:33-34 teaches us to treat the stranger among us as citizens; to not wrong them, and to love them as ourselves. This bill, which prohibits 287(g) agreements, takes a moral approach to protect non-citizens, particularly brown and black people, and reflects my religious teachings.

I am an attorney who worked in legal services and then the federal government on behalf of low-income individuals. I have seen first hand how unchecked law enforcement activities, especially those targeting brown and black communities, affect the ability of members of those communities to work and live safely in Maryland. My older clients and clients with disabilities who are citizens are impacted when their home health aids and caregivers who aren't citizens are too fearful to come to work and support them. My daughter, a Montgomery County Public School teacher, has had children miss school and has found family members unwilling to participate in family meetings and other school activities out of fear for their safety. Friends and neighbors have taken to carrying their passports with them in case they are targeted.

When local Maryland law enforcement agencies agree to take on the work of ICE they are not making Maryland safer for anyone. Instead, they are not protecting either citizens or strangers or loving them as themselves. They are committing wrongs against them based on racial profiling and other misconceptions. As a result, people are missing work, children are missing school, people who rely on the help and work provided by targeted populations are not being served. A favorable vote on SB#0245protects all Marylanders and reflects religious teaching.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0245.

CLINIC's Testimony on 287(g) Maryland Bill - 01.20
Uploaded by: Viviana Westbrook
Position: FAV

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
Testimony before the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,
SB245, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement
Submitted January 20, 2026
Position: Support

"We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants…We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones…For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity." (*Special Message on Immigration from the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Plenary Assembly in Baltimore, Nov. 12, 2025*)

About CLINIC

As the nation's largest charitable immigration legal services network, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. ("CLINIC") provides substantive legal and program management training and resources as well as advocacy support at state, local, and national levels. CLINIC serves over 400 affiliates organizations across 49 states and the District of Columbia, providing crucial legal services to hundreds of thousands of low-income and otherwise vulnerable immigrants every year.

Embracing the Gospel value of welcoming the stranger, CLINIC cultivates projects that promote the dignity and protect the rights of vulnerable immigrant populations. CLINIC's national office is in Silver Spring, Maryland. In serving our affiliate network and through our programming, CLINIC has particular expertise in the life-changing -- and at times life-saving -- role that access to representation makes in the life of an immigrant.

Position

CLINIC supports SB245, the bill prohibiting state and local law enforcement, agencies, employees, and others from entering into immigration enforcement agreements, while also providing a plan for termination of existing agreements.

Many of our affiliates support immigrant victims of crime. We often hear how clients or potential clients are scared away from reporting crimes because immigrants see law enforcement agencies with 287(g) agreements as an extension of immigration enforcement. We have seen the negative impact of 287(g) agreements on immigrant communities.

CLINIC's own State and Local Advocacy Attorney has focused on this issue for several years, attending hearings, educating communities, and writing op-eds about what she has seen in

states like Kansas as well as Maryland.

Local law enforcement should not enter into 287(g) and other agreements with immigration enforcement that make it easier to put immigrants into the deportation pipeline without due process. This last year we have seen many instances of immigration enforcement trampling on these rights. It is vital that Maryland is not complicit with the violence, fear, and chaos they bring to communities.

CLINIC hopes the bill will pass this year.

Below is a brief overview of 287(g) and the harmful effects these agreements have on communities.

Understanding 287(g) and the Harmful Impacts on Communities: A Primer

What is 287(g)?

- Under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, section 287(g) allows the federal government to enter into written agreements with states to deputize local authorities in certain immigration functions.

The number of 287(g) agreements

- As of January 16, 2026, there are 1,316 agreements across the states in the U.S.
- Before 2025, there were only 134 agreements.
- Maryland went from having three counties with 287(g) agreements, to having eight: Allegany, Caroll, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, St. Mary's, and Washington.
- This means the negative impact on our communities has been staggering.

Do states have to enter into 287(g) agreements?

- No, absolutely not. The federal law clearly states that 287(g) agreements may be carried out "to the extent consistent with State and local law."
    - The law also explicitly says, "Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require any State or political subdivision of a State to enter into an agreement."

Have other states taken measures to prohibit or limit collaboration between state and local law enforcement and ICE when there is no judicial warrant?

- Yes. States including California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Illinois, Connecticut, Maine, New Jersey, Vermont, and Delaware, have passed laws either prohibiting 287(g) agreements, detainer requests, and/or sharing information with ICE unless as required by law.

Repercussions of 287(g) for Local Communities

Financial Costs

- Federal law states that 287(g) is to be carried out "at the expense of the State or political subdivision."
    - That means state taxpayers are funding these programs.
    - The federal government only pays for the initial training and setup.
    - State and local law enforcement still must cover salaries and benefits, local transportation, and office issue material used in the execution of the 287(g) agreement.
- Litigation costs land on the local law enforcement agency.
    - Previously, in Maricopa County, Arizona, the litigation costs in death and abuse lawsuits accumulated up to $43 million before the agency ended their 287(g) agreement.

Destruction of Community Trust

- 287(g) destroys community trust. By deputizing local law enforcement with immigration enforcement powers, immigrant communities see them as an extension of ICE. This, in turn, leads to a chilling effect among immigrants and refugees who become victims of crime but are too afraid to report it.
- Ensuring that everyone in our community feels safe to report crime to our local law enforcement makes us all safe.
- When local law enforcement agencies have agreements such as 287(g) or easily honor detainer requests without a signed warrant from a judge, immigrants begin to equate local police and sheriffs with immigration enforcement. The Center for American Progress noted the "pernicious effects that 287(g) programs can have on communities, as local residents lose trust in the very law enforcement agencies that

are responsible for maintaining public safety."

Erosion of Public Safety

- 287(g) redirects law enforcement from community safety to immigration policing. Officers tasked with civil immigration enforcement have less time to respond to violent crime, domestic abuse, or neighborhood threats.

- Local law enforcement ends up spending valuable time and resources on immigration enforcement rather than on prioritizing the safety of their community.

287(g) puts immigrant domestic violence survivors at risk as it deputizes local law enforcement agents to engage in immigration enforcement in their jails

- Unfortunately, abusers will often take advantage of the victim's lack of knowledge of U.S. laws. Many immigrant survivors do not speak English and if the abuser does, the abuser can craft the narrative and frame it however they wish. Abusers will make accusations against the survivors. In 287(g) jurisdictions, this means ICE is alerted to the arrest.

- Once the survivor is in jail and 287(g) activates, ICE will learn of the survivor's immigration status. This can result in the immigrant survivor being detained, having to fight their case in immigration court, or in some cases, may even be summarily deported.

Poaching of State and Local Officers into Immigration Enforcement

- ICE is currently poaching local law enforcement for immigration enforcement. Since officers in agencies with 287(g) agreements have been trained to conduct certain immigration enforcement actions, they are prime targets. ICE is currently offering sign-on bonuses from $20-$50,000.

- In an article by the Marshall Project, the author addressed how police chiefs and sheriffs are "trying everything they could to get and keep good officers," including offering cash incentives, lowering training and education requirements, and dropping age restrictions.

- Local law enforcement agencies should be able to focus on protecting their communities, rather than trying to compete with the federal government for officers.

Targeting Immigrants Without Criminal Convictions

- The data shows that as of Sept. 21, 2025, 71.5% of immigrant detainees have no criminal convictions. Of those who do, many were convicted of only minor offenses such as traffic violations. This means that the vast majority of immigrants who are detained were flagged to ICE and thrown into detention to be separated from their loved ones, jobs, and communities without a criminal conviction.

ICE has many other ways to detain immigrants they wish to take into custody

- ICE can go through due process and obtain a judicial warrant that is backed by probable cause.

- It is also important to note that mandatory detention exists where the law states the federal government must take someone into custody and hold them without bond if convicted of certain removable offenses.

Racial Profiling is Incentivized and Human Suffering Becomes Profit

- The United Nations at an International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination published observations that included racial profiling associated with 287(g) agreements in the United States.

- DHS recently announced reimbursement for 287(g) for those with the Task Force Model, which is the most harmful to communities since it essentially allows local law enforcement to act as ICE agents when they are conducting their work in the community.

    - This incentivizes agencies to enter into this harmful agreement.

    - The entire system is set up to target people who "appear" foreign born. This incentivizes deputies to make pretextual arrests of people who might fall into that category. Many agencies also have compensated agreements with ICE to hold immigrants in their local jails.

    - This can lead to a county's budget being reliant on putting immigrants in jail.

    - If local law enforcement can act as ICE, and if their jail will receive money for each immigrant held, there is incentive to detain people who may be undocumented immigrants. This normally will not happen without some profiling based on visual and auditory cues.

Solution

- Prioritize public safety in your own communities by building relationships between local law enforcement and immigrants by ending 287(g) agreements.

Conclusion

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values—fairness, dignity, and justice for

all. SB 245 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).

For these reasons, CLINIC supports Senate Bill 245.

SB 245 _FAV_ACLU of MD.pdf
Uploaded by: Yanet Amanuel
Position: FAV

ACLU Maryland

Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 22, 2026

SB 245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

FAVORABLE

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GENERAL COUNSEL

The ACLU of Maryland urges a favorable report on SB 245, which seeks to prohibit state or local entities from entering into a contractual agreement with federal immigration enforcement under the 287(g) program and terminate existing agreements. 287(g) is a voluntary agreement between ICE and localities to deputize local law enforcement to act as ICE agents after minimal training. As opposed to other forms of local cooperation with ICE, 287(g) turns local jails and police into extensions of ICE--eroding public trust, diverting resources, and fueling racial profiling. Added to the Immigration and Nationality Act in 1996 under the "tough on crime" agenda, 287(g) was designed to harm Black and Brown communities.

Evidence shows that participation in 287(g) programs encourage racial profiling, disproportionately impacts Black and Latine people, historically targets individuals with little to no criminal history and creates a climate of fear that harms the relationship between law enforcement and local communities. Every day in Maryland, at least ten immigrant families are violently separated, leaving thousands of children without a parent and shredding the social fabric of our communities. Despite President Trump's rhetoric, the majority of them did not have criminal charges. From September 1 to October 15 alone, two-thirds of the 700 Marylanders arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were never even charged with a crime let alone convicted.[1]

Given that state and local resources are limited, they should be dedicated to proven, constitutional public safety strategies rather than

[1] Conarck, Ben, et al. "Immigrant Arrests in Maryland Hit New High. Most Have No Criminal Record." The Baltimore Banner, 17 Dec. 2025, www.thebanner.com/politics-power/national-politics/immigration-enforcement-maryland-numbers-ice-arrests-criminal-MKPPI2LGXJDXJD3RHC2FNNR2AE/.

to programs that compromise civil rights and tears families apart. Maryland must bravely choose courage and refuse to aid and abet the federal campaign of terror against immigrants and an assault on the rights of all Marylanders.

287(g) agreements have resulted in widespread constitutional violations and racially disparate treatment of residents.

Recent studies and investigations document how the 287(g) program fosters unconstitutional practices.[2] Since 2012, street enforcement models were phased out, and all current 287(g) programs nationwide are exclusively jail based. However, data shows that it incentivizes racially disparate pretextual stops in order to funnel Black and Latine residents into the deportation pipeline. In Maricopa County, Arizona, for instance, the Department of Justice found that local law enforcement routinely conducted sweeps in Latine communities and that Latine drivers were up to nine times more likely to be stopped than other drivers.[3] This led to the termination of the 287(g) program in Maricopa County in 2011.

The experience in Frederick County, Maryland, further illustrates the problem. In a notable case, deputies unlawfully stopped Sara Medrano in 2018 while she was driving with her daughter and two grandchildren. The officer lied about why he pulled her over (a broken taillight that was working just fine), proceeded to interrogate her about her immigration status, and detained her illegally, making her believe she would be separated permanently from her family. In *Medrano vs Jenkins,* the court ruled in favor of Ms. Medrano, which resulted in a $25,000 award in damages, and a formal apology from Sheriff Jenkins for the misconduct of his officers.[4]

Although she was eventually released, this is just one of many examples of abusive police practices that terrify communities, and make residents view law enforcement as a threat, rather than protection. Maryland's law enforcement agencies must serve all individuals equally and without discrimination. We also must ensure that public safety decisions are made and resources are spent to advance the interests of

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[2] American Immigration Council. (2025) *The 287(g) Program: An Overview*. (Fact Sheet) https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/287g-program-immigration#:~:text=Researchers%20have%20found%20that%20287,Latino%20and%20Black%20community%20residents.

[3] Letter from Thomas E. Perez, Asst. U.S. Attorney General, to Bill Montgomery, Maricopa County Attorney, Re: United States' Investigation of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, December 15, 2011, http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/documents/mcso_findletter_12-15-11.pdf.

[4] https://www.aclumd.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/final_settlement_agreement_and_release_signatures.pdf

Maryland's communities first, not the federal government's anti-immigrant politics.

In addition to widespread constitutional violations, studies have found that 287(g) programs make communities less safe.

According to Mike Hilliard, retired major of the Baltimore Police Department, "When trust erodes, crimes go unreported, victims stay silent, and dangerous offenders remain on the streets".[5]

In Maryland, neither Montgomery County nor Prince George's County have entered into 287(g) agreements, despite each having a higher immigrant population than Frederick County. Remarkably, both counties have achieved more significant reductions in crime rates in recent years than Frederick County has under Sheriff Jenkins' oversight of the 287(g) program.[6] In 2024, Montgomery County experienced a 7% drop in overall crime in 2024 compared to Frederick's 4% drop. Two other 287(g) counties, Cecil and Harford, saw no drop in crime at all.[7]

Proponents of 287(g) programs claim that it reduces crime by prioritizing those offenders who present the greatest risk to public safety. However, data shows unequivocally that historically it disproportionately impacts those with low level offenses. Nationally, in 2024 more than three-quarters of people deported through 287(g) had no criminal convictions. In Maryland, from 2016 to 2023, 92% of the 287(g) detainers were for people with no criminal conviction or only the least serious "level 3" conviction.[8] This is a result both of increased racial profiling as mentioned above, and of the fact that 287(g) programs are based in County jails where a vast majority of those booked are for lower-level offenses, serving sentences of less than a year. In Frederick County from 2008-2025, 80% of the 2,069 total 287(g) detainers were lodged on individuals with a misdemeanor charge alone.[9]

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[5] HB 1222 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act). Written Testimony of Mike Hilliard. House Judiciary Committee. 447th Maryland
General Assembly Session. 28 Mar. 2025.
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/cmte_testimony/2025/jpr/1SF7OtfaSCU0o2NzG4iZNwhzPEn5tWXEa.pdf

[6] https://www.aclu-md.org/en/news/seven-truths-surrounding-287g-programs

[7] National Incident-Based Reporting System data for 2024

[8] Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse's Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detainers Tool, available at https://tracreports.org/phptools/
immigration/newdetain/about_data.html. These numbers were obtained by filtered by State: Maryland; Apprehension Method: 287(g) Program; and Seriousness Level of MSCC (Most Serious Criminal Conviction).

[9] "Over 100 Residents Rally before Sheriff's Annual 287(g) Presentation, Call for End to Program." Wearecasa.Org, CASA, 18 June 2025, https://wearecasa.org/over-100-residents-rally-before-sheriffs-annual-287g-presentation-call-for-end-to-program/

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION
FOUNDATION OF
MARYLAND

Additionally, in many cases of those who have been detained in local jails, a judicial officer may determine that the defendant can be released on their own recognizance, or the criminal charge for which a defendant has been arrested, has been dismissed. However, in counties with 287g programs, defendants are handed to ICE before their day in court.

It is clear that the 287(g) program fosters unconstitutional and racist policing practices and erodes community trust and public safety.

For the foregoing reasons, the ACLU of Maryland urges for a favorable report on SB 245.

SB0245_TogetherWeWillHarfordCountyIndivisible_FAV.
Uploaded by: Ydelka Schrock
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

Ydelka A. Schrock
Aberdeen Proving Ground, 21005

TESTIMONY ON SB0245 – IN SUPPORT

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreement – Prohibition

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Ydelka A. Schrock

My name is Ydelka A. Schrock. I am a resident of Harford County District 34A. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreement – Prohibition, on behalf of Together We Will Harford County Indivisible (TWW). TWW is an inclusive and diverse group of 500 regular members, with over 1,000 followers on social media, working together to create a just community that empowers individuals to participate in our democracy and stand up for social, racial, and economic justice to create a place where all can thrive.

The United States was built in part by the energy and ingenuity that immigrants brought with them when they settle in this country. We as a community value the contributions that are made by both documented and undocumented immigrants. They are the backbone to our society.

Despite evidence that the 287g agreement undermines public safety, and that States who used them incur little benefit even in terms of reimbursement, some Maryland Counties continue to uphold this dangerous program, which prioritizes deportations over community trust. The 287g agreement was first implemented in 2002, through the Homeland Security Act passed by congress in the same year, in response to 9/11. The Harford County Sheriff's Office signed its 287g agreement on October 26, 2016, without needing the approval or consent of the County Council. County residents continue to be unaware of the additional expenses incurred by the implementation of the program that goes beyond what is provided by ICE. And in addition, the 287g Unit has not updated its immigration enforcement screening statistics since 2022. Many Harford County residents oppose this program. This agreement was generated out of fear, and has metastasized to cruelty against our immigrant friends, neighbors, and family, despite the contributions they have made to this country.

By deputizing local law enforcement to function as ICE agents, our government is fueling racial profiling, civil rights abuses, and widespread fear in our communities. These immigrants are our friends, neighbors, and family members. They deserve to live without the anxiety and fear of being persecuted by this administration.

On behalf of TWW, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.

SB0245_YdelkaSchrock_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Ydelka Schrock
Position: FAV

January 22, 2026

Ydelka A. Schrock
Aberdeen Proving Ground, 21005

TESTIMONY ON SB0245 – IN SUPPORT

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreement – Prohibition

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Ydelka A. Schrock

My name is Ydelka A. Schrock. I am a resident of Harford County District 34A. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0245, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreement – Prohibition. I am a parent, neighbor, immigrant, and Military Veteran. I believe in standing up for democracy, social, racial, and economic justice.

When I came to this country as a little girl I was amazed at how many people from different cultures resided in the town that I lived in. The many different cultural festivals that were always celebrated each year with pride were among my fondest memories as a child. As a Spanish kid I got to try Italian, Irish, Chinese, and Lebanese foods. I had friends whose families came from various parts of the world. My town represented the diversity of America and its greatness. The United States was built in part by the energy and ingenuity that immigrants both document and undocumented brought with them when they settle in this country.

Despite evidence that the 287g agreement undermines public safety, and that States who used them incur little benefit even in terms of reimbursement, some Maryland Counties continue to uphold this dangerous program, which prioritizes deportations over community trust. This agreement was generated out of fear, after 9/11 and has metastasized to cruelty against our immigrant friends, neighbors, and family, despite the contributions they have made to this country.

By deputizing local law enforcement to function as ICE agents, our government is fueling racial profiling, civil rights abuses, and widespread fear in our communities. These immigrants are our friends, neighbors, and family members. They deserve to live without the anxiety and fear of being persecuted by this administration.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0245.

SB0245_ZackaryBerger_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Zackary Berger
Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0245 - Favorable

SB 0245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 20, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to offer **favorable** testimony in support of **SB 0245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.**

I am a primary care physician who supports immigrants as my patients, as part of my community, and necessity to the future of our state. I further oppose the fascist intrusion of the Trumpist government into our state.

This Act 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).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts 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. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

My patients now live in fear that they will be deported. They are good people. There is no reason to deport them apart from furthering a racist, nativist, and authoritarian agenda. Our local law enforcement must not help ICE.

I urge **the committee to provide a favorable report on SB0245.**

Zackary Berger, MD PhD

SB245 Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibi

Uploaded by: Susan Kerin

Position: FWA

SB245: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Judicial Proceedings
January 22, 2026
Position: Favorable with Amendment

Honorable Chair Smith and Committee Members,

Peace Action Montgomery has nearly 1,500 members. We are part of Peace Action, the largest grassroots group in the U.S. working to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and push for a foreign policy that respects human rights.

I am testifying today in support of SB245, and I want to be very clear: this bill is absolutely necessary. It is also absolutely hypocritical.

Maryland and Montgomery County are funding the Maryland/Israel Development Center (MIDC), which brings Israeli surveillance and weapons companies here. Four months ago, MIDC used your funding to bring in Airis Labs to North Bethesda. Airis Labs scrapes social media to profile people and are working to sell this technology to Homeland Security. THis harm isn't just local, and it will spread far beyond ICE.

It is unconscionable and disingenuous to pretend that passing a bill like this is a moral action while at the same time you are profiting off the very systems that make SB245 necessary. One government official in Montgomery County even proudly noted how we invest in the death sciences and it has proven to be immensely profitable.

Fix this Pandora's box before it gets worse. I'm putting this on the record so future generations know what Maryland did—and so no one can pretend they didn't know.

Susan Kerin Chair
Peace Action Montgomery
susan@peaceactionmontgomery.org

PS- You can learn more about the MIDC and AIRIS lab (we have short videos) at dropthemidc.org

This is an MPIA request which shows that the MIDC brought in AIRIS labs. They also harassed a restaurant as part of "facilitating" AIRIS' arrival.

Dear Susan, per your MPIA request, below is all the email correspondence between MCEDC and the Maryland-Israel Development Center since Ma1 2025. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Bill

Bill Tompkins

President and Chief Executive Officer

Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation

1801 Rockville Pike, Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852

240.641.6721 office I 202.251.7666 mobile

This email message and its contents are for the sole use of the intended recipient or recipients and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: Aaron Bogage
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 6:17 PM
To: Janet Kaplan <jkaplan@marylandisrael.org>; zscheinman@bhiusa.com <zscheinman@bhiusa.com>; David Speer <dspeer@marylandisrael.org>
Subject: Introduction to Maryland Israel Development Center

Hi David and Janet,

Great meeting you this morning! I wanted to introduce you to Zohar Scheinman, Assistant VP at BHI (Bank Hapoalim). Zohar works with different Israeli businesses looking to make entry into the US market, and is looking for additional connections and resources in Maryland. Of course I wanted to be sure to connect him to MIDC!

Zohar- Janet and David are with the Maryland Israel Development Center, an organization focused on bilateral trade between Israeli and Maryland based businesses.

Janet- are you able to share more information with Zohar regarding the upcoming MIDC events?

Thanks!
Aaron

Aaron Bogage

Economic Development Specialist

Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation

1801 Rockville Pike Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852

240.641.6712

aaron@thinkmoco.com I www.thinkmoco.com

From: Janet Kaplan <jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 11:26 AM
To: Aaron Bogage <aaron@thinkmoco.com>
Cc: David Speer <dspeer@marylandisrael.org>
Subject: RE: Pike and Rose

Thanks so much for your assistance.

We will talk soon--- about better things, for sure.

Janet Kaplan

Business Development, Maryland/Israel Development Center (MIDC)

Direct and WhatsApp: 410.318.6600

marylandisrael.org

*MIDC is part of The Associated network, and together we tackle the challenges of the day and work toward creating a better tomorrow. Together, The Associated network takes care of Jews around theworld, while building a strong community for all Baltimoreans. We respond to crises close and far from home. We create meaningful Jewish experiences and put our Jewish values to work. Give to The Associated 2023 Annual Campaign today at **associated.org/give** and change lives.*

Join the MIDC

The Maryland/Israel Development Center is a non-profit "public-private partnership" of the Maryland Department of Commerce, Israeli Ministry of Economy and Trade and The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore that promotes bi-lateral trade and economic development.

From: Aaron Bogage <aaron@thinkmoco.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 11:21 AM
To: Janet Kaplan <jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG>
Cc: David Speer <dspeer@marylandisrael.org>
Subject: Re: Pike and Rose

CAUTION: This email is from an outside source.

I understand- MCEDC doesn't directly work with restaurants, so the Pike District Partnership would know the specifics of their own tenants and provide the best route forward, whether that is a discussion with the restaurant, or a meeting with a different authority. I am not sure if there is

any legal repercussions, but letting them know would be the first step to potentially getting it removed.

Aaron Bogage

Economic Development Specialist

Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation

1801 Rockville Pike Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852

240.641.6712

aaron@thinkmoco.com I www.thinkmoco.com

From: Janet Kaplan <jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 11:14 AM
To: Aaron Bogage <aaron@thinkmoco.com>
Cc: David Speer <dspeer@marylandisrael.org>
Subject: Re: Pike and Rose

Aaron, I was hoping for support from MOCO. I cannot even imagine what Airis Labs or that family will feel the first day they are here. Can you?

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Aaron Bogage <aaron@thinkmoco.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 11:10:18 AM
To: Janet Kaplan <jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG>
Cc: David Speer <dspeer@marylandisrael.org>
Subject: Re: Pike and Rose

CAUTION: This email is from an outside source.

Hi Janet,

I think the best contact would be through the Pike District Partnership. The Executive Director, Theresa Cameron at TCameron@pikedistrict.org OR on her cell at 240.462.9664.

Aaron Bogage

Economic Development Specialist

Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation

1801 Rockville Pike Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852

240.641.6712

aaron@thinkmoco.com I www.thinkmoco.com

From: Janet Kaplan <jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 10:33 AM
To: Aaron Bogage <aaron@thinkmoco.com>
Cc: David Speer <dspeer@marylandisrael.org>
Subject: FW: Pike and Rose

Can Montgomery County help us to remove this?

Janet Kaplan

Business Development, Maryland/Israel Development Center (MIDC)

Direct and WhatsApp: 410.318.6600

marylandisrael.org

Maryland/Israel Development Center
מרכז פיתוח מרילנד/ישראל
An agency of The Associated

The Associated
Jewish Federation of Baltimore

*MIDC is part of The Associated network, and together we tackle the challenges of the day and work toward creating a better tomorrow. Together, The Associated network takes care of Jews around theworld, while building a strong community for all Baltimoreans. We respond to crises close and far from home. We create meaningful Jewish experiences and put our Jewish values to work. Give to The Associated 2023 Annual Campaign today at **associated.org/give** and change lives.*

Join the MIDC

The Maryland/Israel Development Center is a non-profit "public-private partnership" of the Maryland Department of Commerce, Israeli Ministry of Economy and Trade and The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore that promotes bi-lateral trade and economic development.

From: Janet Kaplan
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 10:31 AM
To: David Speer <dspeer@marylandisrael.org>; Nancy Boguslaw <nboguslaw@marylandisrael.org>
Subject: Pike and Rose

Airis Labs moves in here in July- what a welcome.

display of a mural featuring a keffiyeh at Falafel Inc in *Pike and Rose Plaza*, Maryland. It symbolizes terrorism and creates a hostile environment for the Jewish community. We are requesting the immediate removal of the mural! https://app.ActivistMailer.com/keffiyehMural

Get Outlook for iOS

Opposition to Senate Bill 0245.pdf
Uploaded by: A.Kaye Kenney
Position: UNF

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
P.O. BOX 870
SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21803-0870
410-548-4801
FAX: 410-548-4803

Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

Bunky Luffman
Director of Administration

Steven S. Lakin
Assistant Director of Administration

January 20, 2026

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **Opposition to Senate Bill 0245 — Public Safety: Immigration Enforcement Agreements — Prohibition**

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill 0245 — Public Safety: Immigration Enforcement Agreements — Prohibition.

This legislation represents a dangerous overreach into local public safety authority and undermines the ability of counties to protect their residents using proven, lawful tools. It strips locally elected leaders and law enforcement professionals of the discretion to cooperate with federal immigration authorities when doing so serves the interests of public safety.

At its core, Senate Bill 0245 is not about immigration policy — it is about whether the State of Maryland will prohibit local governments from using common-sense law enforcement partnerships to remove dangerous criminals from our communities.
Programs such as 287(g) and similar cooperation agreements exist for one reason: to keep violent offenders, repeat criminals, and gang members off our streets. These agreements allow federal authorities to safely take custody of dangerous individuals inside secure detention facilities instead of conducting at-large arrests in neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools. Prohibiting these partnerships does not make Maryland safer — it does the opposite.

When federal officers are denied access to jails, they are forced into communities to locate offenders after release. That creates unnecessary risk for law enforcement officers, bystanders, and families. It turns controlled, secure transfers into unpredictable street operations.
Public safety decisions should be made by local leaders who know their communities, not by blanket mandates from Annapolis. Each county faces different challenges, crime patterns, and public safety realities. A one-size-fits-all prohibition ignores those realities and removes accountability from the officials directly responsible to
voters.

This bill also exposes the State to inevitable litigation by violating principles of local authority, intergovernmental cooperation, and public safety discretion. It invites conflict between state and federal governments while doing nothing to address violent crime, human trafficking, drug distribution, or gang activity.

Marylanders deserve leadership that prioritizes safety over politics.
For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to oppose Senate Bill 0245 and allow local governments and law enforcement agencies to continue using every lawful tool available to protect their communities.

Respectfully,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

SB 245 Letter of Opposition.pdf
Uploaded by: Adam Streight
Position: UNF

Adam Streight
County Executive

Dan Schneckenburger
Director of Administration

Office: 410.996.8300
Fax: 800.863.0947

County Information
410.658.4041
410.996.5200

CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND
Office of the County Executive
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2100, Elkton, MD 21921

January 20, 2026

The Honorable Will Smith, Chair
Senate Judicial Procedures Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **Letter of <u>Opposition</u> for Senate Bill 245** – Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As Cecil County Executive and a retired law enforcement officer, I write to respectfully but firmly oppose SB 245. I understand and appreciate the national conversation surrounding immigration enforcement and the concern many have about indiscriminate actions against individuals who have integrated into our communities, contribute positively, and otherwise live law-abiding lives. If that is the intent of this legislation, eliminating the 287(g) program does not advance that goal and instead risks discarding an important public safety tool.

The 287(g) program is narrowly focused on individuals *already in custody* for **committing crimes** and subject to federal immigration detainers. It does not target otherwise law-abiding immigrants seeking a better life. In fact, it helps protect all communities, including migrant communities, which are often victimized by criminal offenders. Government's foremost responsibility is public safety, regardless of an individual's immigration status.

Based on my experience as an investigator working with federal law enforcement partners, I believe cooperation across all levels of government is essential to maintaining safe communities. Marylanders have a right to feel secure in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods, and the General Assembly should not dismantle a program that has existed since 1996 and supports that goal. I am also concerned about the potential loss of federal funding if local governments are seen as obstructing federal efforts to remove criminal offenders.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to look **unfavorably** on SB 245.

Sincerely,

Adam Streight
County Executive

SB 245 Judicial Proceedings Committee Bill Against
Uploaded by: Amy Waychoff
Position: UNF

SB 245

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Amy Waychoff

LD 18

Unfavorable

20 January 2026

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Amy Waychoff, and I have lived in Montgomery County since 1987. I am writing in opposition to SB 245, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition. This bill would prohibit jurisdictions from entering into new 287g agreements and would terminate existing partnerships with ICE to alert the federal agency when they have jurisdiction over a criminal illegal alien detained in Maryland.

The 287g program is a well-documented, proven process that has existed under five different presidential administrations. Federal law already has jurisdiction over immigration.

Frederick County entered into a 287g agreement in 2008, and since then it has virtually eradicated the MS-13 gang. According to the county's sheriff, Chuck Jenkins, "we have removed 1,877 criminals out of this county, [and] we are a safe county because of it."(Maryland Matters, 30 December 2025) SB 245 would make his county less safe.

Recently, a Salvadoran gang member — in our county illegally — was convicted in 2023 of accessory to murder. After serving his sentence, the Montgomery County Circuit Court ignored ICE's immigration detainer and released him, requiring ICE to arrest him near his residence in Silver Spring. According to Delegate Chris Tomlinson (R-Frederick and Carroll), last summer an illegal alien

killed a 19-year-old Prince George's County woman. The murderer, Hugo Hernandez-Mendez, had been pulled over by U.S. Park Police in April and arrested for driving under the influence and other charges but was released. Tomlinson said that "maybe if they had a 287(g) program, maybe that guy would not have ever got out of that DUI and that girl would still be alive." (Maryland Matters, 14 November 2025) By releasing such individuals, you are not protecting "vulnerable communities;" you are protecting the criminals who often prey on those very same immigrant neighborhoods.

We need more cooperation with federal law enforcement, not less, to ensure our county remains a safe place to live and work. Thank you.

I therefore respectfully request that you give SB 245 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Amy Waychoff
Montgomery County, LD 18

SB245 OPPOSE Bill Public Safety -Immigration Enfor

Uploaded by: Brigitta MULLICAN

Position: UNF

Testimony in Opposition SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition January 20, 2026

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I respectfully urge you to oppose **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**. Please support the federal **287(g) program** and do not prohibit or terminate immigration enforcement agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These agreements are an important public safety tool that allow state and local law enforcement to cooperate with federal authorities when they have lawful custody of criminal illegal aliens detained in Maryland.

Federal and State Responsibility

Immigration law is federal law, and states should support, not undermine, its enforcement. Over the years, Maryland has demonstrated a lack of cooperation with ICE, and this approach has not resulted in improved public safety. That must change. A nation that does not enforce its laws cannot expect respect for the rule of law.

Consequences of Limited Cooperation

There have been reports of undocumented immigrants with criminal histories being released from local custody without ICE notification, only to later commit additional crimes. Tragic and preventable incidents can occur when agencies fail to work together. These situations highlight the real consequences of limited cooperation and poor communication.

The Need for Coordination

These unfortunate events underscore the necessity for clear coordination between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. By ensuring agencies work in concert, Maryland can take proactive steps to prevent further incidents and better protect its communities. Cooperation strengthens public safety and reinforces public trust by demonstrating a commitment to enforcing the law and safeguarding residents. This is a serious and ongoing public safety concern.

287(g) Program in Practice

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office, under Sheriff Chuck Jenkins, has demonstrated that participation in the 287(g) program supports effective law enforcement and enhances community safety. If ICE is not informed before criminal undocumented immigrants are released, it can lead to a greater risk to public safety.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 245 and to support continued cooperation with federal immigration enforcement through programs such as 287(g).

Respectfully,

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you vote **unfavorably** on **SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brigitta Mullican, Montgomery County, Resident over 60 years, LD-17.

Public Safety Immigration Enforcement SB 245.pdf
Uploaded by: Jean Tuttle
Position: UNF

Testimony in Opposition SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition for your consideration on January 22, 2026

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I respectfully urge you to oppose **SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**. Please support the federal **287(g) program** and do not prohibit or terminate immigration enforcement agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These agreements are an important public safety tool that allow state and local law enforcement to cooperate with federal authorities when they have lawful custody of criminal illegal aliens detained in Maryland.

Over the years, the legislature and the Governor have made Maryland a sanctuary state and seemingly aligned itself with criminals all the while seeking to limit citizens' rights to carry firearms for protection. And now, SB 245 attempts to make us less safe by prohibiting state and local law enforcement and cooperation with ICE.

One of the purposes of state and local government is to help ensure the safety of its citizens. To the members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, why are you doing this?

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 245 and to support continued cooperation with federal immigration enforcement through programs such as 287(g).

Sincerely,

Sandy Tuttle, Montgomery County

SB245 Nancy Shih
Uploaded by: Nancy Shih
Position: UNF

I strongly oppose SB245 for the following reasons.

1. Undermines Public Safety

287(g) agreements allow trained local law enforcement officers to work with ICE to identify and remove **dangerous criminal aliens**, including those charged with or convicted of violent crimes, gang activity, drug trafficking, and human trafficking.
Ending these agreements **limits law enforcement's ability to keep repeat and violent offenders off the streets**, putting communities at greater risk.

---

2. Forces Release of Criminal Offenders

Without 287(g) cooperation, local agencies may be required to **release individuals with serious criminal histories** back into the community instead of transferring custody to ICE.
This creates preventable risks to victims, witnesses, and law-abiding residents.

---

3. Removes a Proven, Lawful Federal–Local Partnership

287(g) is a **congressionally authorized program** that has operated legally for decades under both Republican and Democratic administrations.
The bill substitutes ideology for evidence by eliminating a **voluntary, lawful, and federally supervised partnership**.

---

4. Disrespects Local Control and Law Enforcement Judgment

Local governments should be able to decide—based on crime trends and community needs—whether participation in 287(g) improves public safety.
This bill **imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate from the state**, overriding the professional judgment of sheriffs and police chiefs.

5. Wastes Taxpayer Investments

Agencies participating in 287(g) invest **time, training, and resources** to qualify officers under federal standards.
Forcing termination by July 1, 2026, **wastes taxpayer-funded training and infrastructure** already in place.

Nancy Shih

Howard County

SB0245 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Robert Atkins
Position: UNF

Testimony regarding SB0245 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

This bill (SB245) would ban cooperation between local jails and federal authorities to identify and remove violent criminal illegal immigrants when those individuals are already behind bars, a place where law enforcement has a narrow, controlled opportunity to verify identity and criminal history.

It would prohibit local jails from running background checks or serving warrants in jail that would allow violent offenders, gang members, and sex offenders who are in the country illegally to be deported instead of released back onto Maryland streets.

Enactment of this bill will increase the likelihood of Federal authorities performing random traffic stops and neighborhood sweeps in Maryland.

Ending this cooperation doesn't make Maryland more compassionate; it makes Maryland less safe. A statewide poll of Maryland, commissioned by the Maryland Freedom Caucus, found:

> 84% support requiring local law enforcement to turn over illegal immigrants convicted of violent crimes, gang activity, or sexual offenses to federal authorities
>
> That includes:
>
> 82% of Democrats
>
> 90% of Black voters
>
> 88% of women
>
> Majorities in every region of the state

Please vote NO on SB0245. Thank You

Robert M Atkins
928 Coachway
Annapolis, MD 21401

RG - SB0245.pdf
Uploaded by: Russell Gilbert
Position: UNF

I strongly oppose SB0245.

This bill represents a misguided, one-size-fits-all mandate that strips local and state law enforcement of the discretion they need to serve our communities responsibly. A blanket prohibition on all immigration enforcement agreements is not thoughtful policy – it is an overreach that ignores real differences in local conditions, public safety needs, and operational realities across Maryland.

Our local officers and public employees are closest to the communities they serve. They are the ones who understand local risks, resource constraints, and public safety priorities. I firmly stand by my local law enforcement agencies to make the decisions they believe are necessary to protect our communities. The General Assembly should not substitutes its judgment for theirs through an inflexible statewide ban.

Public safety policy should be guided by practical realities and local accountability – not ideological, top-down mandates. This bill moves Maryland in the wrong direction by removing tools and options from local officials who are best positioned to decide what works for their residents.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on local control and UNFAVORABLE on SB 0245.

v/r,

Russell Gilbert

St. Mary's County, MD

MCPA_MSA - SB 245 Public Safety - Immigration Enf
Uploaded by: Samira Jackson
Position: UNF

Maryland Chiefs of Police Association
Marvland Sheriffs' Association

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: January 22, 2026

RE: **SB 245 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) oppose Senate Bill 245, which would terminate existing federal 287(g) agreements and prohibit Maryland law enforcement agencies from entering into future agreements.

What 287(g) Programs ARE:

- **Deputized correctional officers determining the immigration status of individuals after they have already been charged with a crime, unrelated to their immigration status, and are in custody. If illegal status is confirmed, the officers may issue immigration detainers and notify ICE, which allows ICE to assume custody.**

Currently, eight Maryland counties have voluntarily entered into 287(g) agreements as a public safety tool to identify and remove individuals who have committed serious criminal offenses and who pose a threat to community safety. These agreements are entered into at the discretion of local jurisdictions after careful consideration of community needs, operational capacity, and public safety priorities.

Three counties—Frederick, Harford, and Cecil—participate in the **Jail Enforcement Model.** Under this model, deputized correctional officers may identify individuals charged with crimes to determine immigration status and issue immigration detainers. These detainers enable Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to assume custody of individuals who present a demonstrable risk to public safety, preventing their release back into the community.

532 Baltimore Boulevard, Suite 308
Westminster, Maryland 21157
667-314-3216 / 667-314-3236

Five additional jurisdictions—Allegheny, Carroll, Garrett, St. Mary's, and Washington—participate in the **Warrant Service Officer** (WSO) Model, under which ICE trains, certifies, and authorizes selected state and local deputized correctional officers to execute ICE administrative warrants. This model is narrowly tailored and strictly limits authority to arrests within correctional facilities. It does not authorize officers to question individuals about immigration status or conduct enforcement activities in the community. The WSO model provides a controlled, secure framework that enhances coordination with federal authorities while maintaining clear operational boundaries.

Collectively, these agreements provide Maryland law enforcement agencies with critical tools to prevent individuals with serious criminal histories from re-entering Maryland communities and committing additional offenses.

Senate Bill 245 would require the termination of all 287(g) agreements statewide, despite the fact that participation in the program is entirely voluntary. Jurisdictions that have chosen to enter into 287(g) agreements have done so based on local conditions and the specific public safety needs of their communities. Conversely, jurisdictions that determine the program is not appropriate for their community already possess the authority to decline participation.

By mandating the elimination of all 287(g) agreements, SB 245 undermines local decision-making and imposes a one-size-fits-all approach that disregards the diversity of public safety challenges across Maryland's counties. The bill strips local governments of their ability to make informed, community-specific determinations regarding law enforcement tools they believe are necessary to protect public safety.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association respectfully oppose Senate Bill 245 and urges an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report.

532 Baltimore Boulevard, Suite 308
Westminster, Maryland 21157
667-314-3216 / 667-314-3236

SB245
Uploaded by: Sarah Sample
Position: UNF

Senate Bill 245

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: January 22, 2026

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 245. This bill prohibits counties from having or establishing an immigration enforcement agreement. The bill would require the termination of nine existing agreements principally with county detention centers. It would also limit the ability of local law enforcement to establish legally binding standards and expectations with federal agencies that are operating within the local jurisdictions.

Counties understand the serious and sensitive nature of nationwide immigration enforcement. Tactics employed by federal agencies at times have sparked justified fear and concerns. It is also clear that the types of enforcement activity by federal agencies in local communities varies greatly. Under these circumstances, local governments need to have as many tools as possible to compel federal agencies to share plans and intentions as well as establish legally binding expectations for those interactions and potentially coordinated efforts, as outlined in the Maryland Attorney General's guidance on the issue.

Preserving local autonomy in entering into these agreements allows counties to understand, educate, and maintain a critical eye on federal agents, many of whom are likely novices. These official agreements serve as an opportunity to make federal agents aware of the local agencies' own norms, standards, and policies. A lack of regular communication and documented boundaries and standards can create confusion and mistrust that could inadvertently disrupt or harm residents at a time of increased enforcement. Worse, a ban on such agreements could lead to retaliation and withholding of vital information from local law enforcement and detention centers seeking to protect residents. In contrast, the formally binding agreements let local law enforcement agencies stay close to and better coordinate with these federal actors.

Having the flexibility to establish clear agreements, with boundaries and standards for cooperation, while in compliance with the Attorney General's guidance, serves to protect local governments from unforeseen liability and establishes a rapport that can make existing federal strategies less disruptive and less dangerous for vulnerable communities. For these reasons MACo **OPPOSES** SB 245 and urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

MD SB 245 Statement Opposing the Elimination of th

Uploaded by: Shari Rendall

Position: UNF

FAIR
FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

January 20, 2026

The Honorable William Smith
Chairman
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Smith and other distinguished members of the Committee,

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of concerned individuals who believe that our immigration laws must be reformed to serve our nation's interests.

FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment. Founded in 1979, FAIR has more than three million members and supporters nationwide, including approximately 12,300 in Maryland. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR's opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 245.

The bill eliminates the 287(g) program for law enforcement officers seeking to remove criminal aliens from their communities. This legislation conflicts with federal law. 8 U.S.C. §1357 (g) states that law enforcement officers may enter into memoranda of understanding with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), but also that a formal agreement with the federal government is not necessary for any officer or employee of a state or local agency to communicate with the Attorney General regarding the immigration status of any individual. This includes reporting knowledge that a particular alien is not lawfully present in the United States or to cooperate with the Attorney General in the identification, apprehension, detention, or removal of aliens not lawfully present in the United States.

There are four types of 287(g) agreements: the task force model, the jail enforcement model, the warrant services officer program and the tribal task force model. Only the task force and tribal models operate outside of the jail. Currently, there are eight counties that have 287(g) agreements and all the Maryland programs apply once an individual is already in custody. Three of the programs are the jail enforcement model: Cecil, Frederick, and Harford. The remainder of the programs are under the warrant services officer program: Allegany, Carroll, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington. To be perfectly clear, Maryland law enforcement officers are not rounding up individuals in their communities for ICE. Rather, law enforcement officers in the jails are delegated specified immigration officer's functions.

The bottom line is that these 287(g) programs protect public safety. In its 2022 End-of-Year report (the most recent one available), the Department of Homeland Security highlighted the effectiveness of the state and federal partnerships. State and local law enforcement 287(g) officers encountered 8,842 aliens from 141 countries. Of those encountered, 1,895 were convicted criminals and 4,999 had pending criminal charges. Among the charges and convictions were 1,594 for assault, 1,189 for dangerous drugs, 74 for homicides, and 430 for larceny. Only 160 had criminal charges or convictions for immigration.

Some have claimed that SB 245 is needed because "ICE is abducting people, killing people right off the streets." The ironic thing is that the 287(g) will likely ensure that ICE officers are not in the communities. With the 287(g) program specific individuals are transferred directly to ICE custody from the jails. This enhances public safety by ensuring that criminal aliens are not released back into the community. Additionally, it ensures that individuals other than the ones sought by ICE are not detained. If ICE must go into a community to find an individual it is seeking to remove, it is not going to ignore other individuals in the household who may also be removable.

Finally, policies like SB 245 deny ICE critical assistance to enable it to accomplish its statutorily mandated mission to identify and ultimately remove illegal aliens who are currently in state or local custody. ICE has roughly 20,000 employees, but less than half are dedicated to the apprehension and removal of illegal aliens. The cooperation of state and local law enforcement, which number about 900,000 strong, is vital to ferreting out those among us who are here illegally and who wish to cause us harm.

To ensure the safety of our communities, state and local law enforcement and governments should be encouraged to, not discouraged from, cooperating with federal

immigration authorities. For these reasons, FAIR opposes SB 245 and urges an unfavorable vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of assistance. I may be reached by email at srendall@fairus.org or by phone at 202- 328-7004.

Sincerely,

Shari Rendall

SB0245 - UNF.pdf
Uploaded by: SHARON CARRICK
Position: UNF

January 20, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chairman
and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **SB0245** – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition - **UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly opposes SB0245 to prohibit law enforcement's cooperation with the U.S. Immigration & Customs Service (ICE) through their 287(g) program.

Those jurisdictions and agencies currently participating in the 287(g) program can demonstrate the programs benefits.

Despite what immigration enforcement opponents would have you believe, participating in the 287(g) program:

- Makes our communities safer by keeping foreign nationals convicted of heinous crimes out of our communities,
- Safely and peacefully transfers those individuals to federal jurisdiction,
- Does not discriminate -- every detainee is asked the same series of questions irrespective of race or ethnicity.
- Keeps ICE enforcement out of our neighborhoods,
    - Prevents discrimination and targeting
    - Removes the possibility that other illegals with the subject at the time of pursuit and capture by ICE could be detained.
- Ensures due process via the immigration status categories (see below).
    - It is important to note that an illegal immigrant with an ICE detainer has already received due process of law as guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

There are 6 immigration status categories in the ICE database with varying degrees of enforcement -- (a) here legally - no problem, (b) bond and hearing date, (c) active detainer in place, etc. Prohibiting participation in the 287(g) program will deny Maryland law enforcement access to ICE's database and increase the possibility that an immigrant will be subjected to stronger enforcement tactics than necessary.

Please vote an **UNFAVORABLE** report for **SB0245**.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
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Uploaded by: Timothy Thomas
Position: UNF

As a resident concerned about public safety and the rule of law, I strongly oppose Maryland SB0245 (2026), which seeks to prohibit state and local law enforcement from entering into or maintaining immigration enforcement agreements with the federal government. By forcing the termination of existing partnerships, such as 287(g) agreements, this bill undermines the ability of local sheriffs to identify and detain high-risk individuals who are already in custody for other crimes, potentially allowing dangerous offenders to be released back into our neighborhoods. Effective public safety requires seamless cooperation between all levels of government, and this legislation creates an unnecessary barrier that prioritizes political optics over the practical security of Maryland's citizens.

Furthermore, stripping local jurisdictions of their autonomy to cooperate with federal agencies compromises the integrity of our legal system and ignores the vital role these agreements play in maintaining order and ensuring that those who violate our laws are held accountable.

Thanks
Tim Thomas
Candidate for House of Delegates 1A

SB 245_ Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement A
Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals
Position: UNF

SB 245: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition: Please VOTE AGAINST this bill

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I respectfully oppose **SB 245 – Public Safety: Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

SB 245 would prohibit cooperation agreements between Maryland law enforcement agencies and federal immigration authorities, undermining public safety and limiting the ability of law enforcement to work collaboratively across jurisdictions. Public safety is best served when agencies at all levels of government can share information and coordinate efforts to address serious criminal activity. Effective policing depends on communication and coordination among local, state, and federal agencies—particularly when dealing with serious criminal activity.

Federal immigration enforcement agreements are not about routine civil enforcement; they are often used to identify and remove **dangerous individuals**, including those involved in violent crime, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and gang activity. Prohibiting these agreements **reduces law enforcement's ability to** prevent repeat offenses and **protect victims**—many of whom are themselves immigrants. Prohibiting cooperation risks allowing dangerous individuals to remain in Maryland communities who could otherwise be lawfully detained or removed.

From a **public safety perspective**, **SB 245 creates barriers** to communication and cooperation that could allow dangerous individuals to remain in communities unnecessarily. Law enforcement professionals consistently emphasize that information sharing enhances officer safety and improves outcomes for crime victims. Limiting access to federal databases, intelligence, and coordination tools increases risk during arrests and investigations and undermines efforts to prevent crime before it occurs.

There are also **legal and constitutional concerns**. **States may not obstruct lawful federal operations** or prohibit voluntary cooperation. A blanket prohibition risks conflict with federal law **and could expose the state to litigation**. Courts have consistently recognized that states may not obstruct or penalize voluntary information-sharing with federal authorities.

SB 245 may also have **unintended consequences** for community trust and **crime victims**, including immigrant victims. When offenders are released due to artificial cooperation bans, victims may be placed at further risk, particularly in cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, or repeat violent offenders.

Maryland can and should protect civil liberties while still allowing law enforcement agencies discretion to cooperate with federal partners in cases involving genuine threats to public safety. Accountability, oversight, and clear policy guidelines are more appropriate than absolute prohibitions that remove professional judgment from law enforcement leaders.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **vote against SB 245**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Trudy Tibbals