

Philippa Gasnier
7005 Southwark Terrace
Hyattsville MD 20782
(240) 475-2202
pegemail@gmail.com

Committee: Judiciary Committee
Testimony on: HB 0832 - (Public Safety - State Law Enforcement
Agencies - Hiring Restriction (ICE Breaker Act))
Organization: Individual
Person Submitting: Philippa Gasnier
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 11, 2026

Dear Chairwoman Bartlett and members of the committee,

I am writing in favor of HB-0832 (Public Safety - State Law Enforcement Agencies - Hiring Restriction (ICE Breaker Act)), restricting state law enforcement from hiring individuals who served as sworn U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers after January 20, 2025.

We have all read the reports and seen the video clips of ICE agents, acting violently, ruthlessly, without regard to public safety or constitutional requirements. Often these agents are using their phones to capture scenes for DHS to use for publicity or recruitment. Whistleblowers have revealed that agents have been encouraged to act in violation of constitutional rights. These agents have been caught fleeing from the scene of murders perpetrated by them, concealing evidence, preventing medical attention to citizens who are critically injured. The federal government has protected and honored agents participating in these atrocities. There is no place for agents with this background in our local and State law enforcement.

For years, Maryland has recognized that trust and accountability are crucial for effective law enforcement. Maryland has engaged in statewide training, local initiatives and legislative efforts (like the TRUST Acts) to build trust, foster collaboration, and solve problems to improve public safety and quality of life in our State. We need the uniform standards, transparency and accountability which would be provided for in the Community Trust Act to uphold our Maryland values and to maintain our trust in our Maryland officers and agencies. Allowing agents who have been trained and immersed in the paramilitary, unaccountable, violent and disrespectful ways of the ICE agents would put Marylanders in harms way and destroy the trust that Maryland law enforcement has worked so long to improve.

I support HB-0832 as a critical measure and ask that you vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you,
Philippa Gasnier