

HB0832: The ICE Breaker Act  
Position: FAVORABLE (FAV)  
To: The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair  
The Honorable Debra Davis, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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My name is Niesha McCoy, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB0832: The ICE Breaker Act

The foundation of effective policing in Maryland is an unwavering commitment to the U.S. Constitution. However, that foundation is being undermined by a federal training system that is—in the words of former ICE attorney and academy instructor Ryan Schwank—'deficient, defective, and broken. He testified that instructors are now being ordered to teach recruits to enter private homes without judicial warrants. This isn't a policy debate; it is a direct order to violate the Fourth Amendment. We've seen the results of this 'broken' training in the tragic deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. We've seen it in the gutting of the federal curriculum—slashed from 540 hours to just 300—removing critical instruction on the use of force and constitutional law. And we've seen it in the decommissioning of the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database by Donald Trump in January 2025, which has blinded us to the past misconduct of lateral hires.

Opponents of this bill often argue that ICE agents fulfill a legitimate law enforcement mission and shouldn't be penalized for their service. But we need to be absolutely clear on this point. Even if we accept the mission as legitimate, we must recognize that the mission has been compromised from within. When federal training replaces constitutional law with administrative shortcuts, the 'mission' becomes a liability to the people of Maryland.

Maryland taxpayers have already paid over \$81 million in misconduct settlements since 2009. We can not afford to import a culture of 'administrative convenience' over constitutional mandates.

HB0832 is not about tying the hands of local law enforcement agencies, but a common-sense safeguard that ensures that officers patrolling our streets are trained to protect civil liberties, not circumvent them.

I urge a favorable report on HB083