

Monday, March 9, 2026

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 40. I am submitting testimony as a member of Sanctuary Maryland. I am testifying in **support of HB0832: Public Safety - State Law Enforcement Agencies - Hiring Restriction (ICE Breaker Act)**.

President Trump's cruel, racist, and xenophobic attacks on immigrants have continued in his second administration. It is incumbent upon Maryland to protect the people that he is dedicated to demonizing: our friends, family members, and neighbors, hard-working people who help build our communities. They don't deserve to live in fear.

HB0832 would prohibit Maryland state law enforcement agencies from hiring individuals who were hired as sworn officers by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after January 20, 2025. ICE officers have become notorious for their unchecked and lawless abuse of power, including cruel terrorization of entire communities, ruthless separation of families including detainment of young children, and outright murder, as we have witnessed in horror the murders of Renee Good, Silvero Villegas-González, and Keith Porter.

The current administration has continued to remove restrictions and oversight of ICE, which will inevitably lead to further unchecked abuses of power. **ICE officers therefore have absolutely no place in local law enforcement.** Due to their lack of oversight and implementation of unlawful violence with relative impunity, allowing ICE agents to join Maryland law enforcement agencies will almost certainly lead to several negative outcomes, 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 agents will almost certainly disproportionately impact Latinx and Black communities.

We already unfortunately have evidence of the harm caused by cross-contamination between ICE and local law enforcement in Maryland. The recently terminated 287(g) agreement in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resultant "chilling effect" in Latine communities.^[1] Shifting resources to support the 287(g) led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out

against the program”^[2] These agreements steered local law enforcement to focus on people with minor criminal histories, rather than using resources to prioritize and investigate violent crimes.

Elsewhere, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements tasking local law enforcement with immigration enforcement 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]

Passing HB0832 and barring previous ICE agents from joining Maryland law enforcement is therefore imperative to protecting and restoring public trust in law enforcement. This bill is also critical to conserving our state’s resources and ensuring that local law enforcement agencies remain focused on the areas that are truly of benefit to our communities, not serving President Trump’s racist and xenophobic agenda.

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 in this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.**

Finally, **I strongly support HB0832 on the basis of what this bill would communicate to immigrant Marylanders: that Maryland is a state where immigrants are welcome, supported, and treated as people with equal rights and protections to every other Marylander, and where their inclusion in our communities is prioritized over the professional aspirations of ICE officers who have made a living off of harming immigrant communities.** I am proud of our state’s standing as a comparative safe haven for immigrants compared to many other states in the US, and in the strongest possible terms I believe it is imperative that we continue to do everything in our power to protect immigrants’ rights in the state of Maryland.

It is for these reasons that I am strongly encouraging you to vote in **support of HB0832: Public Safety - State Law Enforcement Agencies - Hiring Restriction (ICE Breaker Act).**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rice Rodriguez
Baltimore, MD

[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] [Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council](#)