

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