

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB0832 – Public Safety – State Law Enforcement Agencies – Hiring Restrictions (ICE Breaker Act)

Judiciary Committee

March 9, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, 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 HB0832, Public Safety – State Law Enforcement Agencies – Hiring Restrictions (ICE Breaker Act).

With the huge influx of money to ICE and the rapid ramping up of their operations, the campaign to recruit officers was aimed at people who were aggressive. Furthermore, screening of recruits was negligible, and training even worse. Many hours were cut from training programs and accountability was aimed at how many people were detained, not who they were detaining and how they were going about it. Law enforcement officers need to put community safety first. They need to be people who are problem solvers, community minded, and interested in promoting safety. They need to be people who respect the Constitution and people's rights. Unfortunately, that description does not fit ICE officers.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to issue a favorable report on HB0832.

Thank you.