

Dear Maryland Delegates,

As a Maryland resident, I am writing to you today to urge your support for vital legislation that will end all 287(g) agreements in the state of Maryland. These programs fundamentally undermine the safety and well-being of our communities.

Stopping collaboration with ICE will increase community trust and cooperation with local law enforcement. When immigrant families are afraid that any interaction with police could lead to deportation, they are less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek help. This makes all of us less safe. The lack of humanity in the actions and decisions of ICE witnessed over and over again should not be in Maryland as it should not be anywhere in the United States.

We must also recognize the immense contributions of immigrants to our state. They are neighbors, friends, business owners, coaches, teachers, taxpayers, and essential workers who strengthen the fabric of Maryland. However, the current federal administration has shown a disregard for due process and Constitutional rights in its aggressive efforts to deport people. The federal government has implemented harmful policies that racially profile and separate Black and Latino Marylanders. The primary role of local law enforcement is to protect and serve our communities, not to enforce complex federal immigration laws.

Maryland must act to protect its families. By passing this legislation, you will take a decisive stand for community safety, for civil rights, and for the principle that local resources should be used to build trust.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this bill to end 287(g) programs.

Sincerely, Victoria DeFebbo