

# EZRA MACLEOD TOWNE

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## **Testimony Favorable to HB0832: Public Safety - State Law Enforcement Agencies - Hiring Restriction (ICE Breaker Act)**

March 9, 2026

Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair, Delegate Debra Davis, Vice-Chair, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Ezra Towne, and my pronouns are they/them. I am writing to you today because I **strongly support HB0832, the “ICE Breaker Act”, and ask for a favorable report from the Judiciary committee.**

People who have worked for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) since January 2025 have committed illegal and unconstitutional acts and have no business working in law enforcement.

Just last year, 32 people died in ICE custody. Among those causes of death are: seizures, heart failure, stroke respiratory failure, tuberculosis, suicide, and neglect due to lack of access to medical care.<sup>1</sup> Instead of accepting responsibility for these deaths, the Department of Homeland Security (who oversees ICE) has instead decided to smear the reputations of these deceased persons - emphasizing details about their immigration status and their alleged wrongdoing.<sup>2</sup>

Since September 2025, ICE agents have shot 14 individuals, and 4 of them have died - including Renee Good and Alex Pretti this year.<sup>3</sup> Seven of these shootings involved shots fired at or in to cars, a practice that police departments have been trying to curb since the 1990s.<sup>4</sup>

People who have worked for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) since January 2025 have participated in a dramatic increase in immigration detainments and shootings of those believed to be immigrants. Under ICE’s supervision, they have committed illegal and unconstitutional acts and have no business working in law enforcement.

For these reasons, **I urge a swift favorable report on this emergency legislation, SB0832, the “ICE Breaker Act.”**

Sincerely,  
Ezra Towne  
Wheaton, Maryland  
District 18

<sup>1</sup> The Guardian, January 6, 2025

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2026/jan/04/ice-2025-deaths-timeline>

<sup>2</sup> Durbin, Richard, et. al. Letter to Kristi Noem and Toddy M. Lyons, February 13, 2026

<https://www.hickenlooper.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-02-13-Letter-to-DH-S-ICE-re-Deaths-in-Detention.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Schuppe, Jon, and Ortiz, Eric. NBC News, March 4, 2026.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-shootings-list-border-patrol-trump-immigration-operations-rcna254202>

<sup>4</sup> Schuppe, Jon, and Ortiz, Eric. NBC News, March 4, 2026. See above.