

1823 Fairbank Road
Baltimore, MD 21209
Abanor303@gmail.com

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TESTIMONY ON HB 444 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

This legislative session, I strongly encourage you to please stand as a leader that values the institutions of civic democracy by supporting SB0245 this legislative session, functionally banning State and county/municipal 287(g) and/or comparable partnership agreements across Maryland. The list of foundational and other deficiencies associated with 287(g) is long (an online search produces many credible examples), while the outcomes, near- and long-term human, funding, and other costs justifying such legislation do not meet moral or technical thresholds. Further, to consider:

- The goals, outcomes, and implementation of 287(g) are antithetical to the US and MD constitutions, the US Bill of Rights, and basic decency.
- In MD and other states employing 287(g), there have been clear, consistent, and substantial destructive outcomes impacting individuals, families, communities, state-wide economies, and a multitude of other serious problems.
- No peer reviewed studies point to meaningful crime reduction attributed to 287(g) agreements. Please see linked studies from [Rowan University](#), [Penn State University](#), [Utah State University](#), even the [Cato Institute](#).
- Deputizing State law enforcement agents to perform as immigration agents is a role they and their departments were never meant to fill, and the results demonstrate this.
- 287(g) agreements disproportionately target individuals with little or no criminal history, including those legally here. 287(g) enforcement is deepening racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal legal system and adversely impacting targeted communities. (Peer reviewed scholarly research consistently finds immigrant communities have lower or comparable crime rates as native-born populations).

Why support 287(g) for another year based on the harmful and costly outcomes, as well as lack of improvements to public safety and other implied benefits? We the people have the responsibility and power to cease our complicity in supporting 287(g).

Please let me know if I may be of assistance and/or answer questions.

With appreciation,



Salem Reiner