

Written Testimony in Support of Ending 287(g) Agreements

Delegate Williams and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I'm writing in support of Bill HB0444, The 287(g) program deputizes local law enforcement to perform federal immigration enforcement duties. The practice has eroded trust between immigrant communities and the police, diverted local resources from core public safety functions, and contributed to racial profiling and family separation.

When residents, regardless of immigration status, fear that any interaction with local police could lead to deportation, they are less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek help in emergencies. As a Maryland resident, I am also deeply concerned about the expanding impact and power of immigration and customs enforcement under this current presidential administration. We have seen how immigrant communities have been terrorized, targeted and policed over the past year under the current administration leading to separation of families, detention in inhumane conditions and increased fear in our communities.

These agreements impose significant costs on local jurisdictions, both financially and socially. Taxpayer dollars should be invested in programs that strengthen communities such as education, mental health services, and violence prevention, not in duplicating federal immigration enforcement. All Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, are entitled to equal protection under the law and deserve to be treated with human dignity.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of legislation to end 287(g) agreements in our state.

Sincerely,
Daisy Mitchell
Baltimore, Maryland