

CASA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

PRIORITIES FOR THE 2026 MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Over the past year, ICE and the federal administration have escalated harmful and aggressive enforcement tactics that have spread fear throughout immigrant communities. Families have been torn apart, due process has been ignored, and basic civil rights have been violated, all with little accountability. At this critical moment, Maryland must step up.

We believe in looking out for one another, and we refuse to allow our state and local governments to be used as weapons against our families and neighbors. Across Maryland, communities are rising together to demand safety, dignity, and justice for all.

END 287(G) AGREEMENTS

The federal 287(g) program deputizes local law enforcement to act as ICE agents, a voluntary and deeply harmful choice that has fueled racial profiling, civil rights abuses, and widespread fear in immigrant communities. Despite overwhelming evidence that 287(g) undermines public safety, some Maryland counties continue to uphold this dangerous program, prioritizing deportation over community trust. This legislation would end existing 287(g) agreements and block new ones, ensuring Maryland's local resources are used to protect communities - not to carry out federal deportation policies that separate families and terrorize our neighbors.

END STATE & LOCAL COLLABORATION WITH ICE

When Maryland law enforcement notifies ICE or transfers people into deportation custody, trust between communities and police is broken—and everyone is less safe. CASA supports legislation that draws a clear line between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement, while allowing the justice system to function as intended. Maryland has no legal obligation to assist ICE; continued collaboration is a political choice that wastes taxpayer dollars and harms communities. Ending this cooperation will strengthen public safety, encourage crime reporting, and affirm that Maryland will not be complicit in targeting immigrant families.

EXPAND DATA PRIVACY PROTECTIONS

ICE aggressively exploits government databases and private data brokers to track, detain, and deport Maryland residents. Although the General Assembly has taken steps to limit data sharing, glaring loopholes still leave families vulnerable. Expanding data privacy protections will shut down these pathways, stop the misuse of personal information, and ensure people can enroll their children in school, access healthcare, and apply for public benefits without fear of deportation. Protecting data privacy is essential to defending civil liberties and dignity for all Marylanders.