



End 287(g) in Maryland SB245 & HB444

What is 287(g)? 287(g) is a program where state and local law enforcement contract with DHS for their staff to, in essence, become ICE agents - enforcing federal immigration law directly. For years, sheriffs with a history of civil rights violations and racism have weaponized the 287(g) program to target and terrorize immigrant communities. Their deputies, acting directly with ICE, help facilitate family separation and an environment of fear in immigrant communities that undermines the trust in law enforcement we all need to feel safe. Participation is entirely voluntary - and yet Maryland has counties actively choosing to uphold this dangerous and discriminatory policy.

Why Ending 287(g) Matters

- **287(g) Is Inconsistent with Maryland's Values** - Maryland has a proud history of protecting immigrant families, promoting inclusion, defending due process, and rejecting hateful policies. Programs like 287(g) stand in stark opposition to the values we've fought for—dignity, equity, and justice for all.
- **287(g) Erodes Community Trust and Safety** - When police act as ICE agents, they create fear in immigrant communities, making people afraid to report crimes or cooperate with investigations. This fear doesn't just hurt immigrant families—it endangers everyone. Public safety depends on trust, and 287(g) destroys that trust, leaving our neighborhoods more vulnerable and less safe.
- **287(g) Misuses Local Resources** - Why are Maryland's local resources being used to enforce federal deportation policies? Every dollar spent on 287(g) agreements is a dollar stolen from local schools and community programs. Marylanders' hard-earned tax dollars should be spent on making our communities stronger - not tearing them apart.
- **287(g) Promotes Racism and Racial Profiling** - 287(g) disproportionately targets Black and Latino residents, proven by countless studies and lawsuits across the country and here in Maryland. In Frederick County, 287(g) led to significant racial profiling and unconstitutional detentions. Black immigrants are also overrepresented in deportation proceedings, reflecting systemic biases exacerbated by programs like 287(g).

SB245 and HB444 will put an end to harmful 287(g) agreements in Frederick, Harford, Cecil, Allegany, Carroll, Garrett, St. Mary's, and Washington counties - while preventing Maryland from entering into new ones that undermine our communities. By ending these partnerships with ICE, we can better protect our scarce local resources, strengthen public safety, and foster trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. This legislation will help keep families together and reject the xenophobic policies of the Trump administration, bringing Maryland closer to the values of fairness, dignity, and inclusion that we stand for.

