

HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

COURAGE HONOR INTEGRITY

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for Legislation Protecting Local-Federal Cooperation in Immigration Enforcement

Dear Chairman Jordan,

As Sheriff of Harford County, Maryland, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed legislation that secures the right of local public safety organizations to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Specifically, this bill ensures that states cannot pass restrictive "sanctuary" laws that would prevent local jurisdictions from entering into or maintaining 287(g) agreements.

In Harford County, our nine-year partnership with ICE has proven to be an essential tool for public safety. The ability to identify criminal illegal aliens within our correctional facilities and ensure they are handed over to federal authorities, rather than being released back into our neighborhoods, is a smart approach to public safety.

This legislation is vital for several reasons:

- Last week the Maryland General Assembly and Governor passed "emergency" legislation banning our ability to participate in the 287(g) program, and this bill will ensure that local agencies are not barred by political maneuvers at the state level from fulfilling their mission to protect the public.



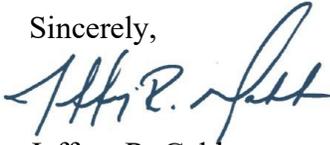
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- The 287(g) program is a force multiplier, which allows us to screen inmates, and, as part of our jail enforcement model, we are able to do investigative work to detect criminals who may be in the country and not known to ICE. These are individuals that are in our Detention Center because they have committed additional crimes, and we are able to work with our federal partners to process them for removal.

The safety of my citizens should never be compromised by partisan efforts from a criminal friendly group of elected officials that are outlawing my ability to participate in a beneficial public safety program. Local Sheriffs and public safety professionals must have the autonomy to work with our federal partners to uphold the rule of law.

For victims like Rachel Morin and Kayla Hamilton, two young Harford County women who were brutally murdered by illegal aliens, I urge the Committee to pass this legislation and protect our ability to maintain these life-saving public safety partnerships.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Gahler
Sheriff