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The Honorable Michael Cloud
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 756 — 287(g) Program Protection Act

Dear Representative Cloud and Chairman Jordan:

I write to express my strong support for H.R. 756, the 287(g) Program Protection Act, and to respectfully urge its favorable consideration and passage by the House Judiciary Committee and the full House of Representatives.

Local governments rely on cooperative federal partnerships to protect public safety and respond effectively to the needs of their communities. Programs authorized under section 287(g) provide a lawful and structured framework through which local jurisdictions may assist federal authorities in carrying out immigration enforcement responsibilities in a targeted, transparent, and accountable manner. These partnerships strengthen public safety while ensuring that local law enforcement agencies operate within clearly defined federal guidelines.

Recent actions in the State of Maryland demonstrate why federal protection of these partnerships is necessary. Just last week, the Maryland General Assembly passed and Governor Wes Moore signed Senate Bill 245 and House Bill 444, legislation that effectively prohibits local participation in immigration enforcement agreements with federal authorities. Our jurisdiction opposed both measures because they

override local decision-making and eliminate tools that had been implemented responsibly and effectively in support of community safety.

The impact of these state laws has been significant. Local governments that carefully evaluated participation in the 287(g) program based on operational need, legal compliance, and public safety outcomes were forced to terminate or forgo participation — not because of any failure of the program, but because of a statewide mandate that disregards local conditions and local accountability. This type of preemption undermines the principle that communities are best positioned to assess their own public safety needs in cooperation with federal partners.

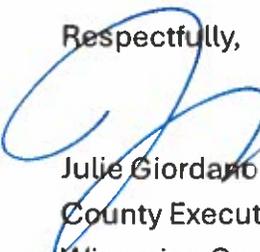
H.R. 756 represents an important and necessary response. By protecting the 287(g) program and reinforcing the availability of federal-local cooperation mechanisms, this legislation helps ensure that jurisdictions choosing to partner with the federal government retain the ability to do so. At a time when some states are restricting these partnerships, federal clarity and protection are essential to preserving lawful cooperation that enhances public safety and operational effectiveness.

Public safety should not be subject to shifting political winds at the state level when local jurisdictions are working within federal law to address real and immediate concerns. The federal government has both the authority and responsibility to maintain consistent national frameworks for immigration enforcement partnerships. H.R. 756 helps preserve that consistency.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the House Judiciary Committee and the full House of Representatives to support and advance H.R. 756. Protecting the ability of local governments to work collaboratively with federal authorities is critical to maintaining safe communities and effective law enforcement.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we may provide additional information or perspective.

Respectfully,



Julie Giordano
County Executive
Wicomico County, Maryland