



First Presbyterian Church OF HOWARD COUNTY

9325 Presbyterian Circle
Columbia, Maryland
21045

410-730-3545 voice
410-715-4981 fax

www.firstpreshc.org

Virginia Callegary
M.A.C.E.
Director of
Christian Education

Margaret McGillivray
D.M.A.
Director of
Music Ministries

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Governor Wes Moore
Maryland District 12A Senator Clarence Lam
Maryland District 12A Delegate Jessica Feldmark
Maryland District 12A Delegate Terri Hill

On behalf of First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, we write to ask for your support for our immigrant neighbors. Specifically, **we thank our legislators for voting for Senate Bill 245/House Bill 444 to ban 287(g) agreements. And thank you to Governor Moore** for signing this important legislation.

We also support measures to require law enforcement to be readily identifiable, including [SB 1](#)/HB 155, which prohibit law enforcement from wearing masks. We ask that you consider support for other policies and practices, such as [SB 504](#), which limit data sharing to protect privacy and prevent misuse, and those preventing Maryland facilities from being used as detention centers.

First Presbyterian, a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church of the USA (PC(USA)), has about 400 members. We are located in District 12A, and our members come from across Howard County and beyond. Founded in 1839, we donate to and work with charities across the area to realize God's vision for the world as a welcoming table with room and sustenance in abundance for all. We take seriously Christ's teaching, "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). The many immigrants in our congregation are a blessing to our community, state and nation.

We agree with our denomination's recent statements: "[We call on Presbyterians](#) and people of faith to continue to stand with refugees, support resettlement communities, and live out Christ's call to love our neighbors." and "[Presbyterians](#) value the constitutional and civil rights for all who reside in the U.S. regardless of immigration status and [urge action to resist government policies that harm immigrant communities](#)." Our denomination also specifically [called for an end](#) to 287(g) agreements "to address the indiscriminate deportation of hundreds of thousands of persons through the merger of the criminal justice system with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)..."

While we support fair and humane immigration policies, these agreements have too often been used to perpetuate illegal and unconstitutional acts, endanger immigrants and others, especially [people of color](#), and do not promote [public safety](#).

We thank you again for ending 287(g) agreements, and we ask for your support on other policies that contribute to a more just and welcoming state and nation.

Approved by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Howard County on February 15, 2026

Kathy Robie-Suh, Chair, Mission Committee

