

HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

COURAGE HONOR INTEGRITY

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

RE: Formal Notice of Termination of 287(g) Agreement

Secretary Noem,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that the Harford County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) is being forced by the State of Maryland to terminate its Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. This action is made in accordance with Maryland law and under protest and in no way represents my belief and full support for this important public safety program.

The HCSO's partnership with ICE has existed and been in operation for the past eight years. As Sheriff, I submitted our request to join the 287(g) Program to President Obama's Administration in 2015. In 2016, President Obama expanded the Program, accepting us as a partner agency. This year, Maryland's legislature and Governor have decided to support criminals rather than victims of crime and the law-abiding citizens of this State. Under the mandate of House Bill 444/Senate Bill 245 (The Maryland Trust Act/End 287(g) Agreements Act), I am left with no legal alternative but to sunset our participation. It is our firm position that this legislative interference undermines local jurisdictions and their governing authorities' ability to maintain public safety and creates unnecessary risks by allowing criminal elements to be released back into our communities rather than transitioned to federal custody.

I want to state unequivocally that, despite this forced termination the HCSO remains fully committed to the safety of our citizens. We will continue to cooperate with our Federal Partners to the maximum extent permitted by the legal constraints now imposed upon us by State law.



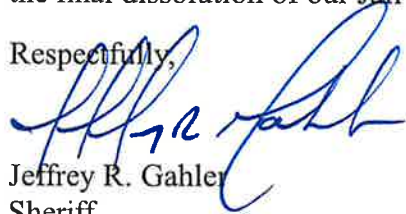
The Honorable Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security

February 17, 2026

Page 2

We request that you acknowledge receipt of this notice and provide administrative guidance for the final dissolution of our Jail Enforcement Model operations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Gahler", is written over the word "Respectfully,".

Jeffrey R. Gahler
Sheriff

cc: Warden Daniel J. Galbraith, Warden, Harford County Detention Center
Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
The Honorable Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland