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TESTIMONY ON HB444 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

TO: Chair J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair Debra Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee
FROM: Catherine Bergmann

My name is Catherine Bergmann. I am a resident of District 22. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB444, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I have lived in Riverdale Park for over 30 years; my husband and I raised our two children here. I am a retired clinical psychologist with a background in public health.

My German-Jewish parents fled Nazi Germany. Many of my relatives did not escape; they were taken from their homes and deported to concentration camps in other countries where they were tortured and murdered. My parents taught me that all Germans were responsible for the actions of their government.

I have spent my life wondering if it could happen here. I believe it is happening right now. Illinois attorney general Kwame Raoul said: “Border Patrol agents and ICE officers have acted as occupiers rather than officers of the law. They randomly, and often violently, question residents. Without warrants or probable cause, they brutally detain citizens and non-citizens alike. They use tear gas and other chemical weapons against bystanders, injuring dozens, including children, the elderly and local police officers.” Recently an ICE officer executed a mother in Minneapolis for no reason.

We cannot allow this to go on in our state. The 287g agreements invite ICE to work here in Maryland and facilitate their actions. I speak out against this in memory of my ancestors killed by the Nazis.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB444. Thank you.