

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements –
Prohibition

House Judiciary Committee

January 23, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marcia Coe and I am a resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I support **HB 444** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB 444**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.