

Testimony for [HB0444](#)

[HB0444](#) – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Williams

Committee: Judiciary

Hearing Date: January 27, 2026

Submitting: Liz Feighner

Position: Favorable

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

My name is Liz Feighner and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland in District 13. I am writing in support of **HB0444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I have been horrified by the illegal and unconstitutional actions by ICE and other federal agents. Their thuggish behavior includes unconstitutional racial and ethnic profiling and is detrimental to the fabric of our society and democracy. As a granddaughter of immigrants, I realize that my family could be hunted down like dogs had they immigrated to the states in later years than when they did in the early 1900's.

I support **HB0444** 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.

I do not want my local tax dollars to be spent by local law enforcement for immigration actions when they divert needed resources from traditional and effective local law enforcement functions of protecting our communities. It is bad enough that our federal tax dollars are being spent on illegal activities terrorizing communities.

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. Local police are insufficiently trained to enforce complex federal immigration laws and local law enforcement participation leads to mistrust in communities and can turn minor interactions into life-altering situations including separation from families.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB0444**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Liz Feighner
Howard County, MD
District 13