Jan. 23, 2026
Dr. Anna Rubin
Columbia, MD 21045
HB444-FAV

TESTIMONY ON HB444
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

TO: **Chair** J. Sandy Bartlett, **Committee Vice Chair:** Debra Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee
FROM: Dr. Anna Rubin

My name is Dr. Anna Rubin. I am a resident of District 13. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB444, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I am the chair of Columbia Jewish Congregation's Social Justice Committee. I enthusiastically support HB444 in order to further the safety of my neighbors and friends. 287g agreements are dangerous, promote racial profiling and the unlawful abduction of people without due process. This often violent process violates my Jewish values which mandate that every person is created in the image of God and that we are commanded to protect the stranger in 32 different citations in the Hebrew Bible.

I am the child of an immigrant who came to this family from Eastern Europe before World War I. If my father had not been successful in immigrating here with his family, it is very likely that they would have been killed during World War II. How crushed he would have been to know that this country, which he adored and honored, was behaving this way to people struggling to find a haven and refuge from persecution and poverty, just as he was. How horrified he would be to hear of the violence perpetrated by ICE agents.

I see the fear in the eyes of friends, neighbors and business employees. I hear about people terrified to leave their homes to work, go to medical appointments or to take their children to school. I am aware of how devastated families are to lose a beloved parent, child or sibling, and who are struggling to survive financially when the wage earner suddenly disappears. I urge you to pass a clean bill with no carve outs.

In closing, I urge you to pass HB444 and to protect Marylanders from a rogue agency trading in mob tactics and violence.