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TESTIMONY ON HB0444 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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

FROM: Bernard Fleitman

My name is Bernard Fleitman. I am a resident of District 23 and a member of Tikvat Israel synagogue. I submit this testimony in support of HB0444, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

As a grandchild of immigrants and as a technology executive who has worked extensively with immigrants and as a Jew who is painfully aware of the Brownshirt roundups of the Holocaust where Jews and other 'undesirables' were indiscriminately rounded up due to birth genetics, it is clearly wrong, unjustified and immoral to round up large numbers of people due to their lack of full citizenship.

No high tech business today can exist without immigrants. Indeed many of the largest tech firms (such as Microsoft, Google, etc.) are both led by and significantly staffed by, immigrants. From major innovations (to simply being loyal, tax paying community members), this county has been immeasurable and continually enriched by immigrants. Thus it is a moral and economic imperative to stop baseless immigrant attacks.

There is no reasonable justification for creating - or allowing - this atmosphere of fear and repression. I believe this bill goes a long way towards alleviating that fear and needless repression. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0444.**