



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HB 0444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn, President

DATE: January 27, 2026

The League of Women Voters supports the [10th Amendment to the US Constitution](#) which affirms that states have primary policing powers within their borders. [Case law](#), moreover, asserts that the federal government cannot compel states to enact or enforce federal regulatory programs such as the [US Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\) 287g Program](#). Maryland, therefore, has the right to prohibit law enforcement agencies throughout the state from entering into or continuing 287g agreements with ICE. To do otherwise would be to funnel state and local resources into a federal agenda and away from a principal duty of these jurisdictions - to ensure public safety.

HB0444 categorically prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies and their employees throughout Maryland from entering into new immigrant enforcement agreements with the federal government and stipulates that the termination provision in all existing agreements must be exercised no later than July 1, 2026. These provisions are in line with positions long held by the [League of Women Voters](#).

Therefore, **the League of Women Voters of Maryland**, a member of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table and representing nearly 2,000 citizens throughout Maryland in its own right, **strongly urges you to issue a favorable report.**