

Date of Hearing: 1/27/2026

Michelle Markey
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TESTIMONY ON HB0444 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Michelle Markey

OPENING: My name is Michelle Markey. I am a resident of District 40. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0444, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition Act.

Many thanks to the many delegates who have sponsored this bill. I am a licensed social worker and therapist, where I provide mental/behavioral health support to medically underserved populations.

I believe it is critical that anyone who lives within our borders, regardless of national origin or language, is able to live safely and without fear, as well as access potentially life-saving public safety resources/services. Agencies that carry out immigration action should be kept separate from services that protect public safety. Currently, many of the people I see through my work are seeking treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder due to being victims of domestic violence, assault, and other crimes; many have reported not calling 911 for help due to fear of detention or deportation if they were to do so. Having members of our population living in fear not only from the crimes they have experienced, but also having nowhere to turn for help or safety, corrodes the safety of all and contributes to an environment of impunity.

Furthermore, as a tax-paying resident of Maryland, I do not support use of local and state funds to collaborate with an agency that is committing egregious and unconstitutional abuses and terrorizing our neighbors, and which has also been freshly allocated with billions of federal dollars to carry out these actions.

I would like to reiterate my favorable position on this bill, which will protect the rights and safety of all Marylanders. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0444.**