

## Testimony on House Bill 444 – Favorable

### HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

January 23, 2026

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

The Solidaridad Action Committee (SAC) of the Gamma Alpha Chapter (GA) of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporada (ΣIA) offers favorable testimony in support of **HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**. SAC is composed of sisters of ΣIA, a Latina based but not Latina exclusive sorority with a large membership base throughout the state of Maryland. Our committee and organization represents many women including undergraduates currently studying at the University Maryland, College Park, Towson University, Johns Hopkins University, McDaniel College and alumni who work in various professions and industries across the state.

At its core, **HB 444** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

ICE activity in Maryland has had a deep impact on our sorority sisters and our families and community. Our sorority sisters who are teachers work with scared and traumatized students, children who feel anxiety over family separation. Our family members, non-citizen and citizen alike, have changed their routines and live a more limited and restricted daily life for fear of being racially profiled and aggressed by law enforcement. And many of our friends and family members have experienced the injustice of detention, deportation, and family separation. We hope that ending 287(g) contracts is a step toward not only limiting ICE activity but abolishing ICE altogether. Our sorority sisters, our communities, deserve dignity and respect. ICE activity and state sanctioned violence is inhumane. No human being should be subject to this terror.

For these reasons, the Solidaridad Action Committee of the GA chapter of ΣIA urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB 444**.