

I am writing in support of HB0444.

As we have seen in cities across the country, the presence of DHS and ICE agents has done nothing but threaten the safety and livelihoods of everyday people. Allowing local and state officials to partner with DHS/ICE agents, who repeatedly demonstrate their eagerness to arrest and assault others without justification, will only accelerate the current decay of our constitutional rights and endanger lives. Maryland has the opportunity to set an example for how other states should aspire to protect their residents by taking a stand against the unchecked and oppressive authority leveraged by DHS/ICE.

Any action to diminish the power of ICE is an action to support the wellbeing of our democracy and our neighbors, citizens and non-citizens.

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