



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Bill Title: HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

POSITION: Favorable

To: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Christianne Marguerite, Member of Progressive Maryland

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Christianne Marguerite. I am a proud Maryland resident and member of Progressive Maryland. I am the wife of an immigrant from the Dominican Republic and the daughter of an immigrant from Trinidad and Tobago.

I call this state my home, and I submit this testimony in **strong support of legislation to ban Maryland participation in the harmful federal 287(g) program.**

For my family, this issue is deeply personal. Immigration is not an abstract policy debate for us; it is a lived reality. My family's story is one of hard work, contribution, and belonging. Like so many immigrant families in Maryland, we are invested in our communities, our neighbors, and the future of this state.

The 287(g) program undermines public safety and community trust. When local law enforcement is entangled with federal immigration enforcement, immigrant communities are less likely to report crimes, cooperate with police, or seek help when they need it, making everyone less safe. The program incentivizes racial profiling, creates fear, and diverts law enforcement from their core mission of protecting and serving their communities.

Policies like 287(g) also send a chilling message to immigrant families that they are not fully welcome here, even when they are deeply rooted in Maryland. By banning participation in the 287(g) program, Maryland can lead with compassion and common sense, because public safety is strongest when trust exists between communities and law enforcement.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to issue a **favorable report on HB 444** and move Maryland toward a more just, humane, and safe approach to public safety and immigration.

Respectfully,
Christianne Marguerite