

Testimony on House Bill—Favorable
HS 444 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements -
Prohibition
House Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 27, 2026

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

My name is Karen Christof and I am a resident of Frederick, MD. I am writing in support of HB 444 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

Frederick County has participated far too long in the 287 (g) program and it is time for it to end. It has led to racial profiling in our county and fear in the hispanic community in particular.

287g does not make us safer; the statistics do not bear this out. This program creates fear in our community; fear of local law enforcement members who are supposed to be there to serve & protect all of us but who are now acting as agents of detention & deportation. Community members are afraid to report crimes & domestic violence for fear of being swept up in the illegal & unconstitutional actions of ICE agents.

In MD, over 60% of the nearly 2000 arrested didn't have criminal charges, let alone convictions; most people are detained for minor traffic violations. Under 287g, a traffic stop becomes a deportation trap.

All costs of 287g detentions fall on the local jurisdiction & State's taxpayers. Initial & ongoing training of local deputies by ICE diverts local resources away from protecting the community and at tax payers expense.

Participation in 287g makes Frederick County complicit with the cruel and unconstitutional actions of ICE that we're witnessing every day across the country. A broken immigration system cannot be fixed by unconstitutional & cruel enforcement of a complex system.

And finally, I ask that you support all the residents of Frederick County and all of Maryland by using our resources to support our local law enforcement needs, rather than do the work of ICE. With a budget of nearly \$75 BILLION, we should NOT be using local resources to supplement ICE and by doing so, making Frederick County complicit in the cruel and illegal actions now underway across this country.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 444.

Thank you for your time and consideration.