

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee,

I am Silvia Blitzer Golombek and live in Lutherville, in Baltimore County. Please, I urge you to vote FOR HB0444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements– Prohibition.

I support HB0444 because having grown up under the Argentinian fascist dictatorship, I experienced the fear of being searched, separated, or suspected in case I thought differently. Because I had to change aspects of my daily life for fear they put me at risk. Because I stopped exercising my constitutional rights because they were no longer protected.

And now as a naturalized US citizen, I am reliving what I thought I had left behind: I worry about speaking Spanish in public; I carefully assess what civic activities I can safely participate in; above all, the presence of masked ICE agents “disappearing” individuals off the streets - people who like me, contribute daily to the welfare of their communities and families – stirs terrible memories and visceral emotions.

Please, I respectfully urge you to do the right thing and act “the American way” and vote enacting policies that protect your neighbors from abuse and fear so that we can all continue to build thriving communities. Please vote FOR HB0444.

Thank you.