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## **TESTIMONY FOR HB0444**

### **Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Williams, Acevero, Addison, et al

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD)

**Person Submitting:** Liz Enagonio, co-founder

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony **in favor of HB0444** on behalf of Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD). IBBMD is a group of several hundred grassroots activists in Bowie and surrounding areas in Prince George's County, working to bring justice, equality, and people-centric legislation to Maryland.

HB0444 would prohibit the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or any agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement; and requiring the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before July 1, 2026. IBBMD supports this bill for all the reasons you will hear today: that Maryland should not be spending our taxpayer dollars to help ICE, that 287g agreements destroy community trust in law enforcement, that a majority of immigrants detained by ICE have no criminal records, and more.

But we see the **human** cost of ICE in our neighborhoods. We see unidentified individuals with their faces hidden knocking our neighbors to the ground, dragging them across pavement, throwing them in unmarked vehicles, and driving away, leaving no record of where they are taking the kidnapped person. We see kids afraid to go to school, and parents afraid to accompany them. So here's why we think 287g agreements should be banned in Maryland: we don't think our law enforcement officers should be party to fascism. We don't want our officers to HELP PROMOTE this uncontrolled and inhumane behavior from ICE. We think law enforcement officers in

Maryland should be protecting our law-abiding, hard-working, valued immigrant neighbors from being yanked out of their trucks and off our streets by masked thugs acting like America's Gestapo.

IBBMD requests a FAVORABLE vote on HB0444 with no weakening amendments. It is our moral imperative to do as much as possible to protect our fellow human beings who happen to be immigrants.