

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB0444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

House Judicial Committee

January 27, 2026

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

My name is Shannon Taylor, and I am a community member from Catonsville, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB0444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

For a year ICE has been terrorizing my friends, and neighbors. The immigrant communities of Maryland have been living in fear that their families will be torn apart, and they will be taken from their home. I personally know people that are too afraid to drive in fear of getting caught in illegal immigrant enforcement activities. The state of Maryland should not be complicit in this fear mongering. Passing this legislation would be a good first step in showing that Maryland cares for all its residents, and will do what it can to protect them, and their loved ones.

I support **HB0444** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Passing this legislation will provide a small bit of relief to immigrant communities who already have to fear their federal government. This legislation will be a powerful statement that they don't have to fear their state government too.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB0444**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shannon Taylor

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