

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

HB444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 23, 2026

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

My name is Tim Rothermel and I am a resident of Cecil County, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

I support HB 444 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.

I support this legislation because the unjust targeting of the immigrant community in Cecil has led to my community being less safe. Folks are afraid to work with law enforcement to stop real violent criminals, which is understandable given the threats that immigration enforcement activities have created for them. Not only that, I have seen the 287g agreement rip a father from his special needs son. Now a young child, who has been hospitalized many times, must go without his father. A father who was only accused of a crime, but later had all charges against him dropped in court.

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.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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