

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Philip Ateto and I am a lifelong Marylander, currently residing in Annapolis, in Anne Arundel County. I am writing in support of support of **HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

At a time when trust in law enforcement is already low and continuing to decline, deputizing local law enforcement hastens the erosion of trust of local law enforcement, resulting in make vulnerable immigrant communities even more vulnerable as they are less likely to report crimes for fear of being profiled and arrested.

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.

We have seen the egregious violations of Constitutional rights by ICE with impunity to citizens and non-citizens alike and allowing 287g would leave communities without any law enforcement agencies they can trust as their local police would potentially been working directly with ICE as we have seen in other municipalities. It would also further implement racial profiling aka “Kavanaugh stops” reversing decades of progress for black and brown communities.

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.

Banning 287g would give communities a local law enforcement agency they can trust to impartially enforce laws, without fear of being profiled.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.