



SUPPORT: House Bill 444
Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
House Judiciary Committee
January 27, 2026

The Blueprint Coalition is a coalition of more than 30 organizations representing hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and is co-led by Strong Schools Maryland and the Maryland Education Coalition. The coalition is dedicated to the full implementation and funding of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and works to ensure that Maryland's education system supports all students, particularly those most impacted by systemic inequities. Our members include educators, parents, advocates, and community organizations that work closely with immigrant students and families across the state. **The Blueprint Coalition offers favorable testimony in support of House Bill 444, Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.**

At its core, SB 245 is about upholding Maryland's values of fairness, dignity, and justice. This legislation recognizes that state and local governments should not be pulled into federal immigration enforcement through agreements such as 287(g). These agreements undermine public trust, divert limited local resources away from community safety, and create fear that keeps families from fully participating in civic life. Maryland should remain focused on due process, equal treatment under the law, and ensuring that all residents feel safe interacting with public institutions.

The Blueprint Coalition has seen firsthand how immigration enforcement activity affects the communities we serve. Fear of detention or deportation leads students to miss school, struggle to concentrate in class, and disengage from learning altogether. Parents are less likely to attend school meetings, access services, or communicate with educators when they fear contact with government systems. This climate of fear harms not only immigrant families, but entire school communities, and directly conflicts with the Blueprint's emphasis on student well-being, family engagement, and inclusive learning environments.

Programs such as 287(g) have a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They erode trust between law enforcement and the communities they are meant to serve, making everyone less safe. When families are afraid to report crimes, seek help, or engage with public institutions, public safety suffers.

These enforcement practices undermine the mission of the Blueprint Coalition by creating barriers to educational access and stability for students. Maryland cannot achieve the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future while allowing policies that drive fear into schools and communities and push students out of the learning environment.

For these reasons, the Blueprint Coalition urges the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 444.

Please contact Riya Gupta at riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.