

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

My name is **Jeremiah Raftovich** and I am a **resident of Anne Arundel County Maryland**. I am writing in support of **HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I think that it is unacceptable that in the state of Maryland people have reason to fear a humiliating, disruptive, or dangerous encounter with federal immigration enforcement due to interactions with local police.

I support **HB 444** because it would eliminate immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) that 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.

It is clear to see that ICE and other federal agencies are using violent, racially motivated tactics to create fear across the country. Our state and local governments should not be involved in this unjust campaign. Our communities are stepping up to inform their neighbors of what law enforcement is active around them. In Anne Arundel County, which has no 287(g) agreements, residents can be reassured that there is no immigration activity once county police have been confirmed. This situation should be applied across the State.

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.

Our police, sheriffs, and state troopers should be accountable to us, and free to serve us, not ensnared with DHS. They certainly should not be perceived as a threat to our immigrant neighbors and our communities due to their involvement with DHS's devastating campaign.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.