

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

House Judiciary Committee

January 27, 2026

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

My name is Rebecca Armendariz, MSW, LCSW-C; I'm a resident of Baltimore County and a clinical social worker. I am writing in support of HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

The increase in ICE activity in our state is a direct result of the authoritarian takeover of the U.S. federal government. ICE officers are modern slave catchers, kidnapping people of color on sight without any concern for the law or Constitution. We in Maryland must use every possible resource and pull every lever of power that we can to prevent more of our neighbors from ICE/DHS detention. Banning 287(g) agreements is critical to this task.

We are in precarious times, with the federal impoundment crisis and destructive of civil service deeply impacting our state. We must provide communities with resources to survive this time, material and social, and not further tax residents' nervous systems and psyches by contributing to the brutality of this state terror campaign.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Rebecca Armendariz, MSW, LCSW-C