

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
House Judiciary Committee
January 22, 2026

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

My name is Catherine Morrison, and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. I am writing **in support of HB444** – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

This issue is very important to me because of my grandchildren. They were raised for their first five years by an amazing nanny from El Salvador. She helped create the loving grandkids they are becoming. She entered the US illegally, escaping an abusive domestic situation. While the coyotes didn't mistreat her, the trip was extremely difficult. She tells the story of crossing the Rio Grande carrying her infant daughter over her head. She came to this country seeking a better life and she found it, marrying a U.S. citizen and raising her daughter who has recently graduated from the U of Md.

I support **SB 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. Since the enforcement began she has been too frightened to leave her home. She has been diagnosed with Lupus and I fear that her reluctance to leave her home will worsen her health. Clearly it has already interfered with her emotional wellbeing, not to mention the wellbeing of her family and mine.

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 do a great job in enforcing Maryland law, but should not have their attention diverted to ICE enforcement. The federal government already has enough boots on the streets and are aggressively recruiting even more. We should not allow our scarce police resources to be wasted on the efforts to find and deport law-abiding residents of our state. We need them protecting us, not terrorizing our neighbors.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Catherine Morrison