

TESTIMONY FOR HB0444

Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Position: Favorable

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0444. This bill seeks to ensure that state and local resources are not used to enforce federal immigration laws, thereby protecting the rights and safety of all residents, regardless of their immigration status. Additionally, the bill prohibits the state, local governments, county sheriffs, and their agents from entering into immigration enforcement agreements with federal authorities (287(g) agreements) while mandating the termination of any existing agreements by July 1, 2026.

By limiting the involvement of state and local law enforcement in federal immigration enforcement, the bill aims to build trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, encouraging cooperation and reporting of crimes. This can lead to safer communities overall. Furthermore, the bill ensures that state and local resources are focused on public safety priorities rather than federal immigration enforcement, promoting a more efficient and just use of resources.

I support this bill and recommend a Favorable report in committee.

Laura Bonkosky

19 Ridge Rd, Unit T

Greenbelt, MD 20770