

Chris Apple
6385 Windharp Way
Columbia, MD 21045
District 13

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0444, Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

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TO: Chair J. Sandy Bartlett & the House Judiciary Committee

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Chris Apple, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB 0444, Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

In the past year, ICE has shown numerous times that they do not respect the best interests of the communities they police. They have abducted our neighbors, committed violence and intimidation against Marylanders, and deported Marylanders without due process or without sufficient cause. Who has not heard the story of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, deported without reason and in defiance of a court order that mandated he remain in the US? ICE has shown no respect for the rule of law, and no respect for Maryland communities. They only wish to inflict as much fear and humiliation as possible.

That is why all Maryland governments must end collaboration with ICE immediately. A 287g agreement is not a tool to protect our borders – instead, it is a license to allow petty thugs to intimidate our brown and Black neighbors. A 287g agreement does not make us safer, on the contrary, it makes our state considerably more hazardous.

I urge you to support HB 0444 and help ensure that Maryland's communities are kept safe from the true villains of our time – ICE.