



## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

#### **HB 444 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**

**DATE:** January 27, 2026  
**COMMITTEE:** House Judiciary Committee  
**POSITION:** Favorable  
**FROM:** The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **HB 444 – Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition** a favorable report.

This legislation aims to address concerns about conflicting federal, state, and local policies regarding immigration enforcement, by eliminating the use of local “immigration enforcement agreements” such as the harmful 287(g) program.

As we have watched the federal landscape rapidly change, we have seen more intense and public immigration enforcement without adequate due process to protect individuals’ rights and safety. While immigration enforcement is necessary, the enforcement tactics that we are currently witnessing are designed to intimidate all residents and cause unnecessary trauma to families and communities. This is particularly prevalent when state and local law enforcement agents enforce federal immigration laws directly.

Frederick County is proud to have a vibrant immigrant community that contributes to making our county diverse and inclusive. However, 287(g) agreements undermine our efforts to be inclusive and welcoming by eroding the publics’ trust in our police force and our local government. These practices intimidate our residents and prevent them from trusting and interacting with our law enforcement, even as witnesses or potential victims of crime. We cannot have safe and secure communities if our residents do not feel safe around our local law enforcement.

HB 444 would ban these harmful practices and take an important first step in increasing community trust in law enforcement and government as a whole. During my legislative town hall, over 70% of speakers spoke on the need for a state-wide ban of 287(g) agreements. The community understands the negative impact these agreements have on their families and neighbors, and it is my responsibility to advocate for ending these agreements that are harming the community. A state-wide ban of 287(g) agreements will lead to a safer Frederick County, and a safer Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 444. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Fitzwater".

Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive  
Frederick County, MD