



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Bill Title: HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Erica Puentes, Legislative Coordinator on behalf of Progressive Maryland

Date: January 23, 2026

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

Progressive Maryland strongly supports **HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**. Progressive Maryland is a member based organization led by and focused on working class, Black, and brown communities. Our grassroots advocacy focuses include racial justice and economic justice with the aim of building a more just and equitable Maryland. We have over 125,000 members and supporters across the state, with significant bases in Baltimore City, Prince George's, Montgomery, Frederick, Harford counties, and the Eastern Shore.

At its core, **HB 444** is about upholding Maryland's values - fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or diverting state and local resources into federal immigration enforcement. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration enforcement agreements such as 287(g).

The Progressive Maryland membership is deeply concerned with the erosion of democracy under Trump's administration and the rise of state funded attacks on our Black, brown, and immigrant communities. ICE's activity is state sanctioned terror. Maryland must stand up to this anti-democratic and violent behavior and fight back against the harms our communities are facing. We hope that ending 287(g) contracts is a step towards the abolition of ICE, a rogue secret police agency that fails to improve public safety and instead inflicts deep harm on our communities and our nation.

For these reasons, **Progressive Maryland** urges the House Judiciary Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB 444**.