

Date of Hearing January 27, 2026
Louise Weissman
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Testimony HB444:
Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition
Position: Favorable
Judiciary Committee

TO: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair, Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee

FR: Louise Weissman

My name is Louise Weissman. I'm a resident in Greenbelt - District 22 and I am writing in support of **HB444- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition**. I ask that the House Judiciary Committee return a **favorable report**.

I am the daughter and granddaughter of Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants who came to the United States in the first part of the 20th century. My family members left Poland and Russia as persecution against Jews was rampant there. Extended family members already in the U.S. urged them to immigrate as soon as possible, pointing to public discussions about exclusion acts that would put limits on Jewish migration.

I hope my comments do not suggest that the Jewish immigration story is comparable to the experiences that immigrants currently face. But our country is experiencing the emergence of fascism led by a Presidential Administration that doesn't care about our Constitution and Rules of Law. The DHS/ICE operation of 287(g) simply reinforces a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions.

Now federal agents are assaulting, detaining, and disappearing immigrants across the U.S. The result leaves communities terrorized and division sown as a vehicle to maintain power. These brutal assaults are reckless and inhumane and should not be a part of our country's story. Sadly, now I'm reminded of the German para-military: the Sturmabteilung or Brownshirts, who carried out similar acts as Hitler rose to power.

Immigrant safety and protection as well as measures to create a pathway to citizenship are important to me. Prohibiting the State and our local governments from entering into agreements with ICE should be a priority during the 2026 Annapolis session. I strongly believe we must pass legislation that reflects the aspirations of our nation. Nobody, regardless of immigration status, should fear deportation or family separation. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB444.