

Testimony on HB444 - Favorable
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition
House Judiciary Committee

January 23, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to offer **favorable** testimony in support of **HB444 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition**.

I am a primary care physician who supports immigrants as my patients, as part of my community, and as a necessity to the future of our state. I further oppose the fascist intrusion of the Trumpist government into our state.

This Act affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law - by ending 287(g).

The 287(g) program has a well-documented history of racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detentions. It diverts local law enforcement from their primary duty of protecting public safety, forcing them to act as immigration agents rather than community protectors. This erodes trust, particularly among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or seek help when needed. Ending 287(g) ensures Maryland's resources are used to foster public safety—not help the federal deportation agenda.

My patients now live in fear that they will be deported. They are good people. There is no reason to deport them apart from furthering a racist, nativist, and authoritarian agenda. Our local law enforcement must not help ICE.

I urge **the committee to provide a favorable report on HB444**.

Zackary Berger, MD PhD