

Testimony on House Bill 444 – Favorable
SB 245 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
House Judiciary Committee

January 27, 2026

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

I am Dr. Kari Alperovitz-Bichell; I am a resident Annapolis, MD. I am writing in **support of HB444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

As a primary care physician, I see many immigrant patients, and I am aware of the intense fear rampant in these communities. When we previously had a 287G agreement in Anne Arundel County (which has since been discontinued), I recall hearing of patients fearful of calling the police when crimes occurred because of fear of immigration action. That kind of fear undermines public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

Therefore, I urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB 444**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kari Alperovitz-Bichell, MD, MPH