

Good day. My name is Lisa Siano and I live in Columbia MD. I am sending this testimony in support of HB444, the bill to ban 287 agreements in Maryland.

287g agreements, in addition to leading to illegal racial profiling and civil rights abuses, divert needed resources from traditional and effective local law enforcement functions. Local police are insufficiently trained to enforce complex federal immigration laws and local law enforcement participation leads to mistrust in communities and can turn minor interactions into life-altering situations including separation from families. Moreover, while ICE may cover the cost of four weeks of training, counties – local taxpayers – must pay the majority of costs, money that could be put to more effective crime fighting and community safety strategies against real criminals.

I encourage you to vote IN FAVOR of HB 444.