

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

House Judiciary Committee

January 27, 2026

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

My name is Bethan McGarry and I am a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

As a first generation child of immigrants, I know firsthand that our communities are made stronger and more resilient by the gifts of new arrivals, and that they deserve to be treated like the human beings they are.

I support **HB 444** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine 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.

The fear and terror that I have seen in far too many videos and first-hand accounts of interactions with immigration enforcement is unacceptable. ALL of our safety is compromised by the recklessness, unprofessionalism, and wanton hatred with which these enforcement groups interact with those they suspect to be immigrants make EVERYONE less safe.

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.

Please prohibit these agreements to improve safety, trust, or fairness in my community.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB 444**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bethan McGarry