

Testimony on House Bill 444 – Favorable
HB444 – 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 Helen Angela Mezzomo, and I am a resident in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I have seen multiple videos showing ICE employees behaving in aggressive, violent, and unlawful behavior. This is disturbing on many levels.

I support **HB444** 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.

Their recent use of a 5 year old child as bait demonstrates their lack of character and morality. It is evident that they are not detaining “the worst criminals”, but anyone who does not look “right.”

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.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Helen Angela Mezzomo

Dr. Helen Angela Mezzomo