

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB0444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

House Judicial Committee

January 27, 2026

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

My name is Anders Julin, and I am a resident of Catonsville, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB0444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I am in support of the bill because I've seen what agreements between law enforcement and ICE have done in other states, and I don't want that in my local community. Policing works when there is earned trust between those enforcing the laws and those they should be helping. When that trust is degraded by assisting an agency that has been shown to effectively have no oversight, everyone suffers. Our local communities feel less safe when neighbors potentially stop reporting crime or being witnesses for fear of placing a spotlight on themselves. Even those who would not be a target for ICE like myself second guess cooperation as it could inadvertently lead to unwarranted scrutiny and retaliation.

This past year has shown ICE is brazen enough in their actions on their own, and partnering with state law enforcement, no matter what level, only emboldens them to go beyond the scope of their work. Having agreements with an organization such as ICE who comes in and indiscriminately terrorizes communities decimates any goodwill, and drastically reduces community interest in supporting local enforcement activities. I don't want my state tax dollars assisting this gross overreach of federal action.

A prohibition on these cooperation agreements is a fantastic show of good faith that our law enforcement is here to protect the community, not sell them out, actively or passively, to the Federal Government. It would reinforce that earned trust, and lead to more open and honest dialogue between law enforcement and their communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB0444**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Anders Julin