

January 27, 2026

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TESTIMONY ON HB #444 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Deedee Jacobsohn

My name is Deedee Jacobsohn. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 444 - Prohibition of Immigration Enforcement Agreements.

I am a member of B'nai Israel Congregation in Rockville and a CASA ally. The Jewish tradition has numerous exhortations about how to treat the sojourner among us: to protect them, to support them, and to treat them with love and compassion because we were once strangers in Egypt. It is one of the most repeated obligations in our Torah. So I am writing from a place of dismay, disgust, and distress. Truly, I cannot find appropriate words to express how I feel about the actions ICE is taking *with the support of our own law enforcement agents* in Maryland.

Right here in Maryland, high school students are living without a parent because ICE has captured a father or mother now being detained in another state. Families are left without their primary provider. Communities are being torn apart, and people are afraid to go about their lives because of the terrifying images from Minnesota. ICE is not arresting or detaining violent or heinous criminals based on warrants. They are filling their quota by kidnapping people who speak another language or have a darker skin color. The "Kavanaugh stop" has empowered ICE to racially profile everyone. No one is released after a "simple conversation" about immigration status; ICE is detaining citizens and immigrants, and denying access to legal representation.

Maryland law enforcement agents should not be supporting this unconstitutional behavior. We need to keep our communities safe. Cooperation with ICE will destroy faith in local law enforcement with devastating consequences for public safety.

I urge you to end existing 287(g) agreements and prohibit local and state law enforcement from making these agreements. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB444.**