

Bill Title: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition – HB0444
Position: SUPPORT (FAV)
To: Judiciary Committee
Date: January 27, 2026

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

My name is Erinn Camp Mansour with Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM), a faith-based advocacy group that advocates for policies that are just, compassionate, equitable, and respectful of the inherent worth of every person and the Earth upon which we live. Quakers across Maryland shared with us their increasing concern for stronger immigrant protections. QVM sees HB0444 as an urgent priority in response to the ongoing and expanding use of 287(g) agreements by some jurisdictions to deputize local police in order to implement federal mass deportation policies.

The Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is operating as a paramilitary force, using draconian operational practices that threaten the lives, dignity and human rights of the people they claim to protect. Law enforcement agreements that use local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration law, often without adequate training or oversight, are discriminatory and a misuse of community resources. Such agreements erode public trust and can result in civil rights violations, including documented cases of racial profiling and targeting of individuals based on appearance rather than suspected criminal activity. This bill terminates and prevents such 287(g) agreements that allow local police to act as ICE agents.

Underreporting crime is more common in communities where there are local collaborations with ICE for higher immigration enforcement. Communities are safer and stronger when neighbors and local law enforcement rely on and trust each other. Peace is lost and communities are broken when these relationships fail.

The Quaker experience of the Divine affects what we do in our personal lives, what we believe and how we work for changes in the wider world. “Testimonies” are what Quakers call the ways we have found to live and act based on our beliefs. We embrace the knowledge that all persons are children of the Divine and brothers and sisters of one another. **Our spiritual and social testimonies, including those of peace, community, integrity, and equality, lead us to submit this testimony for HB0444.**

Please protect the lives, dignity and human rights of all people, and the integrity and effectiveness of local law enforcement, by issuing a **FAVORABLE** report for HB0444. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,
Erinn Camp Mansour
Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland
Organization email: quakervoicemd@gmail.com