Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of District 43b. **I am testifying in support of HB444 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

The End 287g Agreements Act would terminate 287(g) agreements currently active in eight Maryland counties. These agreements, which allow local law enforcement to check immigration status and detain individuals suspected of being undocumented, have several proven negative impacts including: increased racial profiling, community fear, disruption of local policing priorities, negative effects on education, and potential civil rights violations, often disproportionately impacting Latino and Black communities. Ending this program is essential for restoring public trust.

The 287(g) agreement active in Frederick County was found to result in significant racial profiling and a resulting "chilling effect" in Hispanic communities.[1] Shifting resources to support 287(g) has led to "wrongful detainment, racial profiling and fear of retaliation for speaking out against the program"[2] Local law enforcement focuses on people with minor criminal histories, steering resources away from violent crimes. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found in 2009 and 2010 that 287(g) agreements under the task force model in their state were primarily used to target offenders who "posed no threat to public safety or individuals with no criminal record. Overall, 33% of individuals detained through the 287(g) program were charged with traffic violations; in Gaston County the figure rose to 57%."[3]

The last Trump administration massively expanded these harmful programs nationwide despite urban areas citing costs and the impact on community relations. DHS removed expiration dates and other guardrails that provided any attempted reforms and changes to the agreements under the Obama administration[4]. The current administration has continued to remove restrictions and oversight of ICE, leading inevitably to the horrifying murder of Renee Good in Minneapolis. While we've yet to see similar violence in Maryland, every additional encounter between Marylanders and ICE increases the chance of such an incident. Our local law enforcement should not be initiating these encounters.

Maryland's large immigrant community makes up nearly a third of all Maryland healthcare support workers, a third of the state's building maintenance and groundskeepers, and supports a thriving and diverse small business community. In 2018, Maryland's immigrant communities were contributing $8 billion in federal and $4 billion in state taxes, providing $2 billion in business revenue from entrepreneurship, and added tens of billions to Maryland's economy with their purchasing power[5]. We are stronger when our immigrant communities feel safe and supported in our cities and state. And under this current political climate, protections are needed more now than ever.

**It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of HB444 - The End 287g Agreements Act.**

Sincerely,
Theresa M. Hoffman

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[1] Michael Coon; Local Immigration Enforcement and Arrests of the Hispanic Population; Journal on Migration and Human Security, August 8, 2018

[2] Charles Powers; 287(g): ICE Deputizing Local Law Enforcement Harms Migrants and Local Communities; University of Cincinnati College of Law, Immigration and Human Right Law Review, February 2024, Volume 3, Issue 1

[3] The 287(g) Program: An Overview; American Immigration Council

[4] License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); April, 26, 2022

[5] Immigrants in Maryland; American Immigration Council

[6] The Atlantic: How Ice Lost Its Guardrails

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