

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 Barbara Full, and I am a resident of Frederick County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

I care about this issue because it directly affects my family and shapes how we live our daily lives.

My son-in-law is a second-generation American. He was born in the United States, raised here, and this is the only country he has ever known as home. Despite this, I live with the constant fear that he could be stopped, questioned, apprehended, or detained solely because of racial profiling — not because of any wrongdoing, but because of how he looks.

Even in the best-case scenario, where he might eventually be released, the harm would already be done. Detention itself is traumatic. Being taken into custody, held without certainty, and treated as suspect leaves lasting emotional scars. This trauma would not be limited to him alone; it would deeply affect our daughter and reverberate through our entire family.

The worst-case scenario is even more devastating and, alarmingly, something families know can happen. A bureaucratic error. A discretionary decision made without adequate oversight. He could be transferred into ICE detention, or deported to a country he has never lived in, where he does not speak the language and has no support system. Such an outcome would permanently disrupt his life and irreparably harm our family.

No family should be forced to live under the threat that a loved one could be taken away because of racial profiling under 287(g) or systemic failure. Immigration enforcement policies are not abstract — they have real, human consequences. I support **HB444** because protecting families, due process, and human dignity must be central to any just and humane system.

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.

I have witnessed firsthand how immigration enforcement practices create fear and instability within families and communities, even among those who are lawfully present and deeply rooted in this country.

I know a church family in which one spouse is a United States citizen, their children are U.S. citizens, and the other spouse is a lawful permanent resident with a green card. Despite their legal status, this family lives in constant fear and anxiety. The spouse who holds a green card fears they could be stopped or questioned at any time based solely on racial profiling, regardless of the fact that they have never committed a crime.

This fear shapes daily decisions — where they go, how visible they are in public, whether they attend community events or seek help when they need it. They live with the persistent anxiety that a routine encounter could result in detention and potential deportation, tearing them away from their spouse and children.

The possibility of separating a family like this — one that is lawful, peaceful, and contributing to their community — is unconscionable. Immigration enforcement should not place families in a permanent state of fear or force children to worry that a parent may not come home. What I have seen makes clear that the 287(g) program creates barriers to safety, trust, and support, and inflict real harm on families who are simply trying to live their lives.

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.

Prohibiting 287(g) agreements would improve safety by ensuring that local law enforcement is focused on protecting the community, not acting as immigration agents. When people are not afraid that a traffic stop or call for help could lead to detention or deportation, they are more likely to report crimes, seek assistance, and cooperate with police. This builds trust, keeps families safer, and creates a fairer system for everyone.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Barbara Full