



### **Testimony on HB 0444 – Favorable**

HB 0444- Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition  
House Judiciary Committee

January 27, 2026

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 0444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition. The Marylanders for Food and Farm Worker Protection Coalition is an alliance of organizations advocating for policies that uphold the health, safety, and dignity of the workers who keep our food system running, many of whom are immigrants and people of color. We urge the Committee to advance this bill to end 287(g) agreements in Maryland and uphold the core values of fairness, dignity, and justice for all.

At its heart, HB 0444 is about affirming who we are as a state. Maryland should not be in the business of tearing families apart or diverting state and local resources to carry out the federal government's deportation agenda. The 287(g) program undermines community safety and public trust by deputizing local law enforcement as immigration agents. This practice fuels racial profiling and wrongful detentions and creates fear in immigrant communities; fear that makes people less likely to report crimes, seek medical help, or reach out when they need support.

Food and farm workers, essential to farm production and protein processing plants production that provide Maryland with Maryland-based produced food, already face enormous risks on the job including long hours, dangerous conditions, and a lack of workplace protections. Many are also members of immigrant communities who are made even more vulnerable by policies like 287(g) that conflate community protection with immigration enforcement. Ending this program is essential to protecting not only these workers, but the families and communities they are a part of.

For these reasons, we urge you to stand with immigrant communities, food and farm workers, and all Marylanders who believe in justice and equality, and provide a favorable report on HB 0444.