

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 Venus Dang, and I am a resident of Hanover, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

This issue is something I passionately care about, as I have many relatives who have gone through the immigration process relatively smoothly because of the lack of interference from third parties. Many people I know are in fear because of the potential interference that can occur with their immigration process. There are many people dear to me who would benefit from HB444, creating a much more secure process for them.

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 seen many friends and family in fear for their safety because of the immigration law enforcement that is involved. Many of them feel isolated and hopeless, many of them, I know, are not looking for help or make themselves involved in the community and cooperate.

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.

These agreements will create a space that will be safer, and many people will feel more secure in their community. There will be more trust, and people will not live in fear within our communities; they will be willing to comply and cooperate.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.