

Date of Hearing: January 27, 2026

Kenneth Lemberg
Silver Spring, MD 20910

TESTIMONY ON HB444 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Kenneth Lemberg

My name is Kenneth Lemberg. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB# 444, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I support and care about this bill because I do not want my neighbors to be treated unreasonably and dangerously by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local/county law enforcement that could choose to cooperate with ICE. In my apartment complex, Summit Hills on 16th Street in Silver Spring, a large percentage of my apartment neighbors are from other countries - many were born outside the United States. I would hate to see ICE and/or local law enforcement going after my neighbors - that would make the community most unstable and dangerous. I and likely other American citizen neighbors would feel compelled to do something and that could further escalate tensions. Our county gains from diversity and the presence of various cultures and ethnicities; we must not let ICE and local law enforcement to be able to enter into agreements that would likely damage our strength in diversity. For example, because of our diversity, we have a fair number of ethnic restaurants and shops at our convenience, in the neighborhood.

As you might imagine, I am not alone in these concerns and desired emphasis on diversity. I am a member of the Tifereth Israel congregation, right down the road on 16th Street. We have a Social Action Committee that is very concerned about the ongoing immigration crackdown. Other neighbors in the region have expressed their concerns and fears. We simply must not allow local law enforcement resources to be used to round up our foreign-born and native-born neighbors, thereby creating fear and havoc.

Once again, the bill in question astutely prohibits local police from cooperating with ICE in turning over our neighborhood residents. It represents a humane way to push back on what we are witnessing in different parts of the country. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#444.**