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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0444, Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition  
1/23/2026

TO: Chair J. Sandy Bartlett & the House Judiciary Committee  
FROM: Jess Hencke

Chair Bartlett and members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Jess Hencke, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB0444, Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition, to prevent Maryland from entering into any 287g agreements.

As a Marylander and as a United States Citizen, I do not want ICE agents endangering the everyday lives of myself and my neighbors. ICE has jailed protestors, kidnapped people from the streets without warrant, and put children and families in inhumane conditions that have been denounced by U.S. courts and United Nations observers alike. Just yesterday in South Minneapolis, a 2 year old little girl and her father were detained by ICE—is this what we want to see here in Maryland? When ICE acts here, all residents are at risk. They undermine the very foundations of due process and human dignity.

Please let Maryland be a safer place for all of us than elsewhere in our country. Prohibiting ICE agents from working with Maryland law enforcement agencies is the ethically and legally correct thing to do. I urge you to support HB0444 and help ensure that Maryland's law enforcement is being held to the highest standards of conduct.