

Date of Hearing: January 22, 1 PM

Anita Lampel
Bethesda, MD, 20817

TESTIMONY ON HB#444 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Bill Name: Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition

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

FROM: Anita K. Lampel

My name is Anita Lampel. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB444, Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition.

I am Anita Lampel, a member of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Synagogue. In today's deeply troubling times, echoing the regressive politics of the 1930s and 1950s, Maryland must be a blue beacon of hope. The Bible shared by many faith traditions calls out numerous times to protect the stranger in our land for we were once strangers in Egypt. And America has, in the past, done just that—welcoming “the tempest tossed, the huddled masses yearning to be free.” My parents were immigrants to America and I was the first citizen, born months after they arrived in California.

They, and my extended family, never wavered in their support. But, because they were Jewish, they knew the United States had turned away refugees from Europe, returning them to certain death. They understood the price to be paid if you were not the right sort of immigrant—a category for which they barely qualified as Jews. We all know this history, but not as well as we should. How shameful it would be for us to allow our Maryland law enforcement officers to cooperate in terrorizing families who fled horrible conditions in their countries in search of a better life, just as my family did.

End the cooperation with ICE. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB444.**