

Date of Hearing: 1/27/2026

Joshua Goldberg
Baltimore, MD 21211

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

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

FROM: Joshua Goldberg

My name is Joshua Goldberg. I am a resident of District 40. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB444, Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition.

I want to thank a number of committee members for your sponsorship of this bill. I am an active member of the Beth Am Synagogue community, and the Jewish values of protecting the vulnerable and pursuing justice guide my support for HB444. Like many others are experiencing today, my great-grandmother fled violence to seek safety in this country, and the stories passed down about how she cared for her neighbors have shaped my belief that every person deserves security, dignity, and due process—regardless of immigration status.

I want to speak especially about the importance of HB444 for safety and accountability. I know concrete stories of people in my community who have said, *“I wanted to call the police, but I am afraid of being deported.”* These include cases of domestic violence and a car jacking. Of course, this fear extends to any crime where an immigrant neighbor is a victim or witness. *People who commit crimes also know* the added power they have when their victims are afraid to seek help, and this emboldens theft, violence, and intimidation. It creates fear that permeates whole neighborhoods — that I feel myself — regardless of how many generations back our families found this country..

HB444 will go a long way toward ensuring that our neighbors can safely seek help from the police, rather than allowing crime to grow in the shadows outside law enforcement’s view. When people know that reporting a crime will not lead to deportation, they are far more likely to seek protection, cooperate with investigations, and help keep their communities safe.

For these reasons, **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB444.**