



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support House Bill 444 - Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
House Judiciary Committee, January 27, 2026

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill, which prohibits the state, county and other units of local government from entering into certain federal immigration enforcement agreements, known as the 287(g) program, which concern cooperation with federal immigration law enforcement.

The City of Takoma Park has nearly 18,000 residents within 2.4 square miles and is proud of its rich diversity—about one-third of its population was born outside the United States. The City has made significant efforts to ensure that all residents, regardless of background or immigration status, feel safe and supported. The Takoma Park Police Department does not participate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. The City's Municipal Code prohibits police and other city employees from inquiring about or sharing information regarding a person's citizenship or immigration status, unless specifically required by law, and strictly forbids discrimination based on citizenship or immigration status. These policies build trust with local law enforcement, particularly among our immigrant population, ensuring everyone feels safe seeking help and reporting crime.

Given recent increases in federal immigration enforcement activities, it is crucial for all state and local law enforcement agencies to have consistent policies and approaches regarding their involvement in immigration enforcement. Our residents travel throughout the state. Having different immigration enforcement procedures across the state causes confusion for both residents and officials, rather than providing any real benefit to anyone.

Building trust between law enforcement and all residents is essential, particularly to ensure that immigrant communities are not subject to unequal or discriminatory treatment under federal, state, or local laws. When trust is undermined, it jeopardizes the safety, security, and well-being of everyone in our community, erodes confidence in law enforcement, and makes it more difficult for our local police to effectively do their jobs. HB 444 is one important step in ensuring that consistency for our residents. We support the prompt enactment of this bill into law, and hope for a favorable Committee action.

City Contact: Talisha Searcy, Mayor
talishas@takomaparkmd.gov