

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice-Chair Davis, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Judy Shaffer, and I am a resident of Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**.

My values and faith compel me to stand up to the abuse of power when people are removed from our streets with no recourse to the system of justice that is the foundation of our nation.

The lack of respect for individuals and inhumane, violent treatment I have seen on the news is abhorrent and against all I believe in.

I support **HB 444** because immigration enforcement agreements like 287(g) create fear in immigrant communities and undermine public safety for everyone. When people fear contact with law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate as witnesses—even when they are victims.

Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention. They divert local resources away from protecting communities and instead entangle local agencies in federal deportation efforts that separate families and destabilize neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on **HB 444**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.