

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

My name is Sara Ryan, and I am a resident of Frederick County, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition.

My grandfather, Patrick Daly, fled a famine to come to the United States. He was poor at first. Three of his six children died in infancy. Eventually, he became a police sergeant in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and a trusted member of the community. His son, my father, studied law at Yale on a scholarship, where he was ridiculed at times by the elite. My father would not tolerate slurs of any kind in our home. My father used his skills to ensure that members of his community received fair treatment in courts of law. I was taught to respect my neighbor. That is why I am speaking here today.

People who come here seeking safety are our neighbors. Their kids play with my grandkids. They want to give their kids a better life just as my grandfather and father worked so hard to do for their children. We can live up to the values that brought my grandfather here. I want Maryland to be a place where people trust our legal system and know their rights will be protected. Our constitution guarantees the right to due process for everyone. Programs like 287(g) have been associated with racial profiling, discrimination, and wrongful detention

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. With a ban on agreements like 287g, we can live in communities where our resources are not diverted to a program that employs cruel tactics, where we benefit from trusting and cooperating with law enforcement and where we enjoy the rich diversity our neighbors bring to Maryland.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 444. Thank you for your time and consideration.