



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

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Letter of Support for HB0444

To the Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I write in strong support of House Bill 0444.

As a Councilmember for the City of Hagerstown, I have the responsibility to advocate for policies that strengthen public trust, protect families, and promote the dignity and safety of all Maryland residents. As a naturalized citizen of the United States, this issue is also deeply personal to me.

I experienced immigration enforcement firsthand as a child. The presence and actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement were not abstract policy debates in my early life, they were moments of fear, uncertainty, and instability that shaped my understanding of government power and its impact on families. Those experiences remain with me today and inform how I approach my role in public service.

HB0444 represents an important step toward ensuring that state and local resources are used in ways that promote community safety rather than fear. When residents are afraid to interact with local government, law enforcement, schools, or health providers due to immigration concerns, entire communities suffer. Public safety is weakened, not strengthened, when families are driven into the shadows.

This legislation affirms Maryland's commitment to clear boundaries between federal immigration enforcement and state and local governance. It helps ensure that our local governments can focus on their core responsibilities while fostering trust with the residents we serve regardless of immigration status.

In Hagerstown and across Maryland, immigrant families are essential members of our communities. They are business owners, workers, parents, neighbors, and civic contributors. Policies that protect due process and limit unnecessary entanglement with immigration enforcement allow families to live without fear and enable local governments to serve all residents more effectively.

I urge you to support HB0444 and to continue advancing policies that reflect Maryland's values of fairness, safety, and respect for human dignity.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of Maryland.

Respectfully,
Councilmember Caroline Anderson



