

Testimony Concerning: HB0444 Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement Agreements-Prohibition

Judiciary Committee Hearing: January 27, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

Honorable Judiciary Committee Members

I am writing in support of the prohibition of immigration enforcement agreements. Although I am writing as a private citizen, I collaborated with immigrant advocacy groups in the past to ensure that these agreements would not be part of our law enforcement agencies in the state of Maryland. We worked very diligently to keep it out of Prince George's County and other counties worked very hard to keep it out of theirs. Our reasons seem obvious to us, but I will attempt to explain briefly. It is for the sake of public trust. In my profession and in my private life, I have known many immigrants. Because they are overwhelmingly, more than any other group less likely to commit a crime, and much more likely to call the police if they witness a crime than any other group, I and others, too, believe it is foolhardy to break this well- earned trust between the police and the people they are entrusted to protect.

I will not go on needlessly. Everything I stated above is true and has been proven to be true over and over again. Many, if not all, police officers agree.

Please vote yes on this prohibition and please do not think frivolously of it. It is an important piece of legislation and will have lasting consequences for years, and perhaps decades to come. Please make your best judgement to do what is right and fair and do not succumb to the theatrics of those who would oppose such legislation. Their insinuations, I'm sorry to say, are filled with exaggerations which I'm ashamed to even have to listen to. In the past, the critics have accused the friends of immigrants, documented and undocumented, of fear mongering. Today, we know that is no longer true.

Thank you.

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