

March 24, 2025

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB0828:

Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Access, Guidance, and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

To the Honorable Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the House Judicial Proceedings Committees,

My name is Anna Preston, and I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 0828, which would privilege certain locales against access by federal immigration agents for the purpose of immigration law enforcement.

Public spaces like schools, libraries, and healthcare spaces have long been havens for members of society to rest, grow, and heal. Schools are places where children should be able to learn and grow without the fear of being separated from their families. Libraries are cornerstones of our communities, offering a safe, inclusive, and accessible space for learning, culture, and connection. Shelters and healthcare facilities are places of healing and care, where individuals seek necessary medical treatment and support without fear of judgment or punishment.

The ability to seek care or shelter, to learn and grow, or to seek education for one's family are fundamental American privileges. Furthermore, these things have ripple effects that uplift the entire community. Public health and education benefits us all. When the sanctity of these spaces are disrupted, this sets a precedent that these spaces are no longer protected. This bill is not just about protecting the rights of immigrants—it is about protecting the rights of all members of our community. Immigrants contribute to our society in countless ways, and they deserve to live and thrive without the constant fear of being torn from their families and communities. By passing this legislation, we can create an environment of trust, where individuals are not afraid to access the services they need for their well-being.

In conclusion, I urge you to support this measure and to stand with immigrant families, children, and individuals who rely on schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities to lead healthy, productive lives. Restricting ICE access to these sensitive locations is not just a matter of protecting the rights of immigrants; it is about safeguarding our shared values of dignity, respect, and safety for all people. We can—and must—do better by ensuring that our communities are spaces of safety, learning, and care for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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