



Testimony - SB 828, Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Favorable

House Judiciary Committee

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Honorable Chairman Clippinger & Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

SEIU Local 500, as one of Maryland's largest public sector unions representing over 23,000 workers, expresses our support for Senate Bill 828, the **Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**. This crucial piece of legislation ensures that Maryland remains a state where all individuals, regardless of immigration status, can access essential services without fear. By restricting federal immigration enforcement activities in designated sensitive locations, SB 828 upholds Maryland's commitment to public safety, education, and healthcare access for all residents.

As outlined in the bill, sensitive locations include schools, medical and mental health facilities, places of worship, courthouses, social service establishments, and locations where emergency response and relief are provided. These spaces serve as vital resources for the well-being of our communities, and the presence of federal immigration enforcement in these locations would undermine public trust and deter vulnerable populations from seeking necessary services.

Furthermore, SB 828 mandates the Maryland Attorney General to develop guidelines and policies to ensure state agencies comply with these protections. This measure is essential in providing clear and consistent procedures for state-run institutions to navigate federal immigration enforcement concerns while maintaining public safety and accessibility.

The passage of this bill will safeguard the rights of all Maryland residents, ensuring that children can attend school, individuals can receive medical care, and victims of crime can seek support without the looming threat of immigration enforcement. It is a step toward fostering a more inclusive and just society.

We thank Senator Smith for his leadership on this issue and ask you to pass this bill out of committee with a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.