

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Hearing Date: March 26, 2025

Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) strongly supports *Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)*. The bill requires the Attorney General to provide guidance to protect Marylanders from immigration enforcement in health care, social service, and educational settings.

MDAC has strongly supported efforts to ensure that all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, can access needed healthcare services. We are concerned about reports that people are not seeking care because of fears of immigration enforcement in hospitals and other healthcare settings. If people forgo or delay needed care, their health will be at risk. MDAC supports this legislation because guidance about immigration enforcement in sensitive spaces could mitigate the fear in immigrant communities.

We suggest a clarifying amendment to ensure the bill provides protection at all healthcare locations, including settings where dental services are offered:

Strike and replace line 21 on page 1 through line 2 on page 2 with:

"a location where healthcare services are provided directly or under the supervision of a healthcare practitioner licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to practice under the Health Occupations Article"

We ask for a favorable report with this clarifying amendment. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

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