



HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**Empowering People to Lead Systemic Change**  
The Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Maryland

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**Senate Bill 828: Immigration Enforcement—Sensitive Locations—Access, Guidance, and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**

**Date: March 26, 2025**

**Position: Support**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the protection and advocacy organization for the State of Maryland; the mission of the organization, part of a national network of similar agencies, is to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the state. DRM has joined the testimony of the Education Advocacy Coalition (EAC) in strong support of Senate Bill 828 but submits separate testimony to underscore the importance of this bill to individuals with disabilities who need access to schools, libraries, and locations where physical and mental health services are provided. All individuals, and especially individuals with disabilities, need to be able to access the care they need without fear that immigration officials will arrest them as they seek the services and treatment that enable them to lead meaningful lives in the community.

As the EAC testimony notes, the United States Supreme Court ruled more than 50 year ago that all children, regardless of immigration status, have the right to public education. *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1972). DRM represents a number of immigrant children and youth in special education matters to ensure that they have access to public education and, more specifically, to the free appropriate public education to which they are entitled under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*. The immigration status of the children we represent is irrelevant to our representation; our goal is to ensure that all children and youth with disabilities receive the specialized instruction and related services that will enable them to make educational progress and meet Maryland's lofty goal of that every student will leave school career and college ready.

Senate Bill 828 is an essential component of ensuring that all Marylanders, including those with disabilities, have the ability to access the locations where they live their lives without being haunted by the fear that they or a loved one will be arrested and detained by immigration officials.

For these reasons, DRM strongly supports Senate Bill 828.

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Respectfully submitted,

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