



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

## POSITION STATEMENT

**SB 903**  
Senator Smith  
Judicial Proceedings  
Committee

Immigration Enforcement - Public Schools, Hospitals,  
and Courthouses - Policies

### POSITION:

### SUPPORT

**SB 903** – Immigration Enforcement - Public Schools, Hospitals, and Courthouses - Policies – FOR the purpose of requiring the Attorney General, in consultation with certain stakeholders, to develop guidelines to assist public schools, hospitals, and courthouses to draft policies that limit civil immigration enforcement activities on their premises in order to ensure these facilities remain safe and accessible to all; and authorizing public schools, hospitals, and courthouses to establish and publish policies that limit immigration enforcement on their premises to the fullest extent possible.

This bill authorizes public schools, hospitals, and courthouses to establish and publish policies that limit immigration enforcement on their respective premises to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and State law based on guidelines developed by the Attorney General.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) currently has in place a “sensitive location” policy, which states that immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations should generally be avoided and require either prior supervisory approval or exigent circumstances. Locations covered by the policy include public schools, colleges, and universities in addition to places of worship, public demonstrations, and religious or civil ceremonies or observances.

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy (pursuant to an executive order) to allow young unauthorized immigrants who are low enforcement priorities to remain in the country. DACA does not grant an individual legal immigration status or provide a pathway to citizenship, but it does provide individuals with a temporary lawful status.

In 2017, DHS rescinded the DACA program and several lawsuits were filed against the administration for terminating the program. In 2018, however, ICE announced it would accept DACA renewal applications. In November 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *McAleenan v. Vidal*, which consolidated three of the DACA lawsuits into one case. That decision is expected by June 2020. It is assumed that the Attorney General will develop guidelines that ensure compliance with federal law and that the specified parties fully comply with those guidelines.

The Prince George's County Council has long supported our undocumented population and their access to all of our public spaces without fear of immigration enforcement. This bill will give clear direction to

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these public facilities as to their responsibilities under federal law as well as allow them to protect any undocumented person from unnecessary immigration enforcement. The Council firmly believes that the policies being proffered by the President with respect to our immigration laws are flawed. The Council also believes that allowing these institutions to publish their policies concerning immigration enforcement on their premises will foster better trust and cooperation with our undocumented population. This bill simply codifies the Council's position in state law.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS SB 903** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

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Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC  
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council