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PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ways and Means Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 11, 2020

House Bill 403 Immigration Enforcement - Public Schools, Hospitals, and Courthouses - Policies

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 403 Immigration Enforcement - Public Schools, Hospitals, and Courthouses - Policies**. This bill ensures that our public schools, hospitals, and courthouses establish policies, consistent with federal and state law, that limit immigration enforcement on their premises. Since 2011, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has maintained a policy against immigration enforcement in “sensitive locations” - which include schools, hospitals, churches, funerals, weddings, and public demonstration sites. Unfortunately, under the current administration, ICE has not adhered to this policy, and amidst ramped-up deportations across the country and family separations at the border, ICE has conducted raids in “sensitive locations,” such as a courthouse in New York and a hospital in Texas. Some families in Maryland are now scared to seek even the most basic care and services at these institutions where they should feel safe.

HB 403 will ensure that places of care, safety, and refuge for our families-- our schools, hospitals, and courthouses will be less severely subject to the trauma caused by current federal immigration enforcement practices by creating a “sensitive locations” policy. All Marylanders should be able to pick up their kids from schools, to seek medical treatment, to enroll in classes, and to testify in court without fear of deportation.

I have requested an amendment that:

- Clarifies the bill applies to K-12 and post-secondary schools.
- Adds dates for reporting requirements.
- The Judiciary **shall** establish and make publicly available a policy regarding immigration enforcement involving its workforce and judges and their staff.
- Public schools **must** establish and publicly post these policies.

It is critical that we take steps to ensure that immigrant communities are safe in these sacred locations. For these reasons, I urge a **favorable** report for **House Bill 403**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins