



SB828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025
Position: Favorable

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST serves as the backbone organization for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools. The Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, founded in 2016, advocates for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland.

MOST and MD4CS are pleased to support SB 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. The upheaval of the long-term precedent to limit Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in places of worship, hospitals, courthouses, and schools has led to upheaval and fear for families and children in Maryland.

We have heard directly from afterschool program providers that students are afraid to attend school, stay after school to participate in enrichment programming, and attend programs at community centers due to the risks. Keeping children from receiving educational services provides no benefit to the state. The uncertainty, absences from school, and inability to access critical services are a pernicious kind of trauma that will inflict lasting wounds on individuals and communities.

Maryland has the opportunity to lead the way in exerting states' rights to set policies to protect their residents. SB 828 asks the Attorney General to provide policies and guidance that protect people's rights to the full extent state and federal law allows - a balanced and thoughtful approach. We applaud Senator Smith for sponsoring the bill and urge the committee to provide a favorable report.

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