

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 0828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Hearing date: March 4, 2025
From: Tali Stopak, Chevy Chase

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I live in District 18 and am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 0828.

I strongly believe that patients should be able to freely go to their health care providers, congregants should be able to worship and students should be able to go to schools without fear of intimidation. I work with Afghan refugees who were granted asylum and the turmoil of the recent revocation of federal protections limiting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in schools, hospitals, court houses and places of worship has created a situation of unneeded stress and tension in people's lives, even among people who are here legally.

This change has already created an environment of fear and uncertainty, discouraging individuals from seeking medical care, pursuing education, accessing legal resources, or engaging with law enforcement. As a result, our communities, public health, and overall safety are at risk.

Everyone should access essential services without fear of detention or separation. I therefore urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 0828.

Sincerely,

Tali Stopak