



TESTIMONY FOR SB0828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0828 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Given the current environment, we need to protect schools, medical facilities, places of worship, and other areas where vulnerable populations gather from immigration enforcement activities. The bill aims to ensure that these sensitive locations remain safe and accessible without the fear of immigration enforcement disrupting their operations and the lives of those who depend on them.

SB0828 requires the Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at sensitive locations. State agencies operating at these locations must adopt policies consistent with these guidelines or provide written notice if they choose not to adopt them.

By protecting sensitive locations from immigration enforcement activities, SB0828 ensures that these areas remain safe havens for vulnerable populations, including children, patients, and individuals seeking social services. This protection fosters a sense of security and trust within the community, allowing residents to access essential services without fear of disruption. The bill aligns with Maryland's commitment to upholding human rights and dignity, ensuring that sensitive locations remain accessible and supportive environments for all.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition steadfastly supports this bill and similar initiatives that support all Marylanders and help us feel secure.