

Testimony Concerning: SB0828 Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

Judicial Proceedings Committee Hearing: March 4, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Honorable Judicial Proceedings Committee Members

I am writing in support of the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. I write today as an individual Maryland citizen for the past thirty years. As a teacher, I have seen up close the value that children from immigrant families bring to us all. The parents of these children were some of the bests I have ever known. My neighbors, who are immigrants with varying immigration status from one another are the best neighbors we have ever known. They are our friends, our community members, and valued by me and my husband for their sincere desire to work hard, see their children succeed, and contribute to our society.

I believe it is imperative that we do not diminish our moral standing by invading sensitive areas in order to detain and deport individuals. This, of course, would not be the case where there were an imminent threat of danger. This Bill would not change that. However, invading a child's school, playground, or to interrupt a church service is wholly uncalled for. This goes for hospitals and clinics as well. To sink to such a level as this, I fear, would put us in terrible moral standing not only in this country, but around the world. Our courage to pass this Bill could also encourage other States to do so.

As a teacher, I know what terrible psychological trauma such a thing can cause. Not only immigrant children, but all children would be horrified to witness this. Not only immigrants and their families, but friends and neighbors would also be horrified. Although we have had a broken immigration system for some time, there is not real need to cause this extra amount of pain to innocent victims.

In addition, as I listened to the testimonies yesterday in the Judiciary Committee, I was troubled to hear that many delegates were accusing the

witnesses of fear mongering, gaslighting, and basically telling immigrants they had nothing to fear at all. They referred to one I.C.E. agent who testified that none of this is happening and that they don't intend it to happen. Guess what, I.C.E. agents sometimes lie. In some ways, they are trained to do this in order to carry out their orders from above. Do not be fooled by this. Similar incidents happened during the last Trump administration and it is even more likely this time around.

I fully support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act HB1006.

Thank you.

Sincerely

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