



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

The National Domestic Workers Alliance DMV Chapter is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

The National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) works to win the respect, recognition, and labor rights of the nearly 2.5 million domestic workers—nannies, house cleaners, and homecare workers—who play a crucial role in caring for our families and homes. Domestic workers perform vital tasks that enable all other work to happen. They are the caregivers who look after our children, the cleaners who maintain our homes, and the care providers who help our loved ones live with dignity and independence. While the National Domestic Workers Alliance is a national organization, our DMV chapter is a local, membership-based organization covering the geographical area of Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

Most domestic workers are at the heart of some of the nation's most significant issues due to their identities and roles: they are primarily women—many of whom are women of color, immigrants, mothers, and low-wage earners. Their lives are directly impacted by policies that shape the future of our economy, democracy, and society. And unfortunately, right now, many domestic workers are facing uncertainty and fear due to the federal attacks on immigrant communities.

We are hearing from many of our immigrant members in Maryland that they are living in fear on a daily basis. They are scared to go to places that many of us take for granted, like grocery stores and public transportation hubs. Their fear is multiplied now that they know places that have been off-limits to ICE in the past are now vulnerable as well.

While we will continue to empower our members under any political environment, we know that currently we must prepare for worst case scenarios as well. This is why we host Know-Your-Right trainings and why we're distributing materials that will help them understand their rights in case they encounter ICE or any agency deputized to carry out immigration enforcement directives. We are also assisting our members in developing family preparedness plans in case they are detained and placed into the deportation pipeline. While it is very difficult to think about, we're proactively addressing the important issue of child care—ensuring that there is a plan in place for who will care for their children if they are deported.

For over a decade, federal policy limited Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in sensitive locations—such as hospitals, schools, courthouses, and places of worship—to prevent intimidation and ensure

access to essential services. However, as of January 20, 2025, the revocation of these protections has left immigrant communities vulnerable to enforcement actions in spaces where they should feel safe.

This shift 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.

If hospitals, schools, courthouses and places of worship are protected from ICE in Maryland, our members will feel a bit of peace in our state where many of them have lived and contributed to for decades.

NDWA DMV Chapter stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

NDWA DMV Chapter **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**