



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Hearing Date: February 19, 2025

Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Community Health System strongly supports *Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)*. The bill requires the Attorney General to provide guidance to protect Marylanders from immigration enforcement in health care, social service, and educational settings.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers providing primary, behavioral health, and dental services to underserved communities across Maryland. We serve all individuals, regardless of their ability to pay or immigration status. In the past month, we have seen the impact of fear on the immigrant communities that we serve. People do not want to seek healthcare services, sometimes even in an emergency. As healthcare providers, we need to ensure we are creating the safest environment possible for our patients and their families.

We suggest a clarifying amendment to ensure the bill provides protection at all healthcare locations:

Strike and replace line 21 on page 1 through line 2 on page 2 with:

“a location where healthcare services are provided directly or under the supervision of a healthcare practitioner licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to practice under the Health Occupations Article”

We ask for a favorable report with this clarifying amendment. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.