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Testimony in support of Senate Bill 828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

To: Hon. William Smith, Jr., chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Jerry Kickenson, Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network

Date: February 28, 2025

We are writing in **support of Senate Bill 828, Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**, on behalf of the Congregation Action Network (CAN). The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With congregations and members throughout the capital area, including congregations with hundreds of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

As people of faith committed to justice and compassion for immigrants, we adhere to the sacred texts of most major faiths that call for welcoming the stranger and treating each other with love, dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be treated fairly and have the same protections as all Maryland residents.

SB828 will direct the Maryland Attorney General to develop guidelines for sensitive locations, such as schools, hospitals and churches, to explain how to limit federal immigration enforcement at those locations to the fullest extent consistent with federal and state law. Immigrant families should be able to access education, health care, social services, and be able to worship, without fearing arrest and family separation.

We respectfully urge you to reach a **favorable** report for SB828. It will help reduce the fear of Maryland residents accessing critical services and while exercising their right to religious expression.

Respectfully yours,
Jerry Kickenson
Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator
Congregation Action Network
Silver Spring, MD