



**SUPPORT:** Senate Bill 828

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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**February 19, 2025**

The Blueprint Coalition, a 30+ member organization representing hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and co-led by representatives of Strong Schools Maryland and the Maryland State Education Association, dedicated to the full implementation and funding of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. **We strongly support Senate Bill 828**, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, because schools must be places of learning and growth, not fear and intimidation.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future lays out a vision for a world-class education system that supports all students, including those from immigrant families. But without clear protections ensuring that immigration enforcement does not take place in or around schools, we risk undermining the very goals of the Blueprint. Students cannot thrive academically when they are afraid to come to school. Parents cannot fully engage in their child's education if they fear that school drop-off or a parent-teacher conference could lead to detention or deportation.

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.

The revocation of federal protections for sensitive locations has already created fear among immigrant students and families. We have heard the nationwide news and directly from educators about students missing school or struggling to focus in class because they are worried about their parents. We have seen families hesitate to engage with schools - avoiding meetings, events, and even picking up needed services. This fear directly contradicts the Blueprint's focus on student well-being, family engagement, and creating a supportive learning environment.

By passing SB 828, Maryland can reinforce its commitment to ensuring that schools remain places of stability, safety, and opportunity for every student. **The Blueprint Coalition urges the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 828 to ensure Maryland's schools remain places of learning, not fear.**

**Please contact** Riya Gupta at [riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org](mailto:riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org) for additional questions.