

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

March 4, 2025

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

My name is Brendan Murray, and I live in Howard County. It scares me to no end to think that when my child would be in a classroom setting, he would not only need to contend with so many issues that never happened when I attended school in Maryland. The list of worries is endless. Let's put aside the reason for him attending school and his grades and focus on the other factors. The ever-increasing pressures of social media, safety from school shootings, and we want to add on armed ICE agents entering our schools? How would they know if the officers were coming to protect them or to grab one of their classmates?

For any age, these stresses seem like there will be more time spent in a therapy office and less time being a kid. Please vote in favor of keeping sensitive locations off-limits to those who don't have warrants.

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.

Everyone should access essential services without fear of detention or separation. Public safety improves when immigrants feel safe reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear enforcement boundaries build trust, strengthening communities and institutions. For these reasons, I **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**