

## 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,

I am a 75yo resident of Maryland for over 50 years and I am submitting **favorable testimony in adamant support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

Since the beginning of Trump 1.0, I've been dedicating long hours in support of immigrants to provide much needed services and financial support working with Sanctuary DMV and Maryland Against ICE Detention. I assert that we need more immigrants, particularly the kinds that are now being hunted down. These are the people who form the backbone of this country. They work hard; bring creativity and energy to the US; pay taxes; provide vital services (many had to work during the COVID shutdown) such as health care, construction, and food processing that will go undone without them; and are actually less likely to participate in criminal activities than non-immigrants.

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 we don't protect their safety in sensitive locations, they will stay away from schools, religious spaces, courts, and even health care, which would jeopardize the health of us all. The more fearful they become for their safety, the less likely they are to contact authorities when they witness or know of crimes, again to the detriment of all Marylanders.

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 adamantly **urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828**.

Respectfully,

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