

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

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

My name is Maria Baltodano and I am pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

I immigrated to this country from Nicaragua 11 years ago and have been here since then. I am a [what does she do for work] and as a proud member of the National Domestic Workers Alliance DMV Chapter—the leading voice for domestic workers—including nannies, house cleaners, and homecare workers in the United States. I am here today in full support of SB 828 to protect sensitive locations from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) because even though I am fortunate enough to be a permanent resident of this country, many of our immigrant neighbors and community members do not have documentation in this country.

Currently, there is a lot of fear in the immigrant community. I hear from my friends who are undocumented that they are afraid to leave their houses right now because of the threat of deportation. The truth is that many people have left their countries in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Many are running from dangerous conditions in their countries and look to the United States for safe haven. Yet, the last couple of weeks have felt very scary for many.

I had and raised my children in this country. I have planted my roots here and I can't imagine what it would be like to be separated from my family, can you? Yet, this is the truth for my undocumented brothers and sisters—that they run the risk of deportation in their day-to-day lives in places where we should feel the safest and in the country where they've planted their roots, the country where they've spent decades in. Children should be able to go to school, people should be able to worship, and everyone should have the right to seek medical attention if they need it without the threat of deportation.

For over a decade, ICE has had limited access to places like schools, hospitals, places of worship, and courthouses due to federal protections. However, under the new presidential administration, these protections have been revoked and the immigrant community has been left more vulnerable than ever before. As a result, our communities, public health, and overall safety are at risk.

I stand with the immigrant community and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services**, because no one should have to choose between seeking life-saving medical care and risking being separated from their family. Because our children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.

2. **Enhance Public Safety** because when immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn makes our communities less safe.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust** because it establishes clear boundaries for immigration enforcement will help to foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve us all. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB828.