

SB0828_AnnaRubin_Favorable

Feb. 18, 2025

Position: Favorable

Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

Dr. Anna Rubin, Columbia, MD 21045

TESTIMONY –Favorable - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act HB0828

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony IN FAVOR of SB828. I encourage the members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee to vote in favor of the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act that will require Attorney General Brown to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement. As a member of the Jewish community in Columbia and active in several Jewish and civic organizations, I am moved to support this legislation because of my family’s history of immigration from persecution in the early 1900s and because of my Jewish tradition’s insistence that we welcome the stranger in our midst.

On January 20, 2025, the Trump administration [rescinded](#) a long-standing (since 2011) federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy that proscribed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from entering certain spaces that were deemed sensitive and safe, including schools, hospitals and churches.

Everyone who lives in Maryland should be able to live a life without fear, regardless of race, creed, national origin, sexual orientation and immigration status. Today, that freedom from fear is under threat. Fear is pervasive among our immigrant communities —fear of taking a sick child to an emergency room and fear of a pregnant woman going to hospital, fear of sending your child to a school bus stop to get the education that would mean successful integration into a safe society, fear of reporting to a judge because an ICE agent may be waiting or may be planning a raid on the very places we thought were safe.

By removing the protections of various service providers fundamental to our civil society, the intended fear will pervade our immigrant communities and damage the safety and health and even the prosperity of all Marylanders as access to education, health and life-saving services are essentially cut off, with the risk of public health crises. Requiring Attorney General Brown to issue guidance at the highest level of protection for sensitive locations – schools, hospitals, courthouses, places where children gather – will provide centralized and consistent methods and procedures for all affected places in Maryland.

As recommended by the National Immigration Law Center, the guidance and practices that we must put in place must ensure that schools, hospitals, churches, courthouses and areas that are deemed private:

- Develop a written response policy & preparedness plans in advance.
- Designate an authorized person to review warrants & subpoenas.
- Understand the distinctions between public and private areas.
- Train non-authorized staff & volunteers on how to respond to ICE requests.
- Document all interactions with immigration enforcement.

I and thousands of Jews across Maryland, affirm the values of justice, equity and compassion in human relations, values that are embedded in our Declaration of Rights. No one, regardless of citizenship status, should be afraid to take a sick child to a hospital or visit a physician when her life may depend on it. Please VOTE IN FAVOR of SB828.

Thank you.

Dr. Anna Rubin

Co-Chair Social Justice Committee, Columbia Jewish Congregation