

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1006/SB828

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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

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

Francesca Giuliani, therapist in Howard County is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

Immigrants are at the foundation of America. As a therapist, I have had the privilege of working with immigrant families and their descents. The amount of adversity they face is unacceptable and as human beings they deserve to feel safe in places of community. As human beings, they deserve access to education and life saving care, therefore safety within sensitive locations is pertinent. Safety is at the foundation of our needs as a human being and if one cannot feel safe it is placing one in danger and that is inhumane. That is why this bill matters.

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.

At times, therapy is life saving care and if one does not feel safe enough to enter a health care faculty and get this need met, their life could be lost. This is the same for all hospital settings, medical care saves lives, an immigrant has every right to get that care. ICE entering these safe spaces means more lives lost as that creates fear in those needing treatment and care.

Schools are a safe haven for children and their families. Every child deserves an education, whether and immigrant or not. A child should feel safe in a school setting or a child cannot learn. Safety is needed for a regulated nervous system which is essential for learning. ICE being welcomed in a school setting has potential to cause trauma for children who are only seeking better lives. Crossing this boundary is inappropriate as children need to be protected and shown safety in an educational setting, truthfully, in all settings. Places of worship provide community and do not discriminate. One is there to have connection with

spirituality and this should be a sanctuary, not a place of discomfort and anxiety such as a church would become if ICE is allowed to enter.

Therapist in Howard County stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. 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:** 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 hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.