

Date of Hearing: 3/4/2025

Michelle Markey  
Baltimore, MD 21211

**TESTIMONY ON SB828 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**

**TO:** Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Michelle Markey

**OPENING: My name is Michelle Markey. I am a resident of District 40. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB828, Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

I am a licensed social worker and therapist at Chase Brexton Health Care, where I provide mental/behavioral health support to medically underserved populations.

I believe it is critical that anyone who lives within our borders, regardless of immigration status, is able to access potentially life-saving medical and mental health care. Many of the people I see are children and youth, who are dealing with mental health issues such as trauma, anxiety, and depression. I have heard firsthand their fears of being separated from their families while trying to attend school or when going to obtain health care. Not only does the fear itself exacerbate existing mental health conditions, but as we know, having members of our population staying away from clinical facilities and foregoing necessary care puts at risk the health of the broader population. Furthermore, if people are to be subject to immigration action, at a minimum, this should occur in an orderly manner that respects their dignity and upholds their constitutional rights.

In a national context where leaders are attempting to remove these rights, I believe this bill would go a long way towards shoring up protection in Maryland for our immigrant neighbors, most of whom have been living peacefully in—and contributing to—our communities for many years.

I would like to reiterate my favorable position on this bill, which will protect the rights of all Marylanders to access life-saving care. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB828.**