



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 📧 www.mota-members.com

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Hearing Date: March 4, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)*. The bill requires the Attorney General to provide guidance to protect Marylanders from immigration enforcement in health care, social service, and educational settings.

MOTA strongly supports efforts to ensure that all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, can access needed healthcare services. Occupational therapy practitioners often work with immigrant populations, and provide life-skills, psychosocial, and vocational training to support them in adapting to their new communities and achieving social and cultural integration. We are concerned about reports that people are not seeking care because of fears of immigration enforcement in hospitals and other healthcare settings. If people delay or sacrifice needed care, their health will be at risk. MOTA supports this legislation because guidance about immigration enforcement in sensitive spaces could mitigate the fear in immigrant communities.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.