



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

Favorable

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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Honorable Chairman Smith & Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

SEIU Local 500, as one of Maryland's largest public sector unions representing over 23,000 workers, expresses our support for Senate Bill 828, the **Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**. 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.

SEIU Local 500 stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. Everyone should access essential services without fear of detention or separation. Public safety improves when immigrants feel safe reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear enforcement boundaries build trust, strengthening communities and institutions.

We thank Senator Smith for his leadership on this issue and ask you to pass this bill out of committee with a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.