



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

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

Indivisible Howard County is pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, Indivisible Howard County has more than 900 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents.

President Trump’s Executive Order revoking the long-standing federal policy of limiting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship, has created an environment of fear and uncertainty for many Maryland residents. Immigrants in our state, many of whom pay taxes and fill vital jobs, are afraid to seek medical care, take their children to school or worship with their families.

Voting in favor of SB 828 will protect all Maryland residents. If people are afraid to trust authorities, report crimes, or participate in legal processes, public safety will be at risk.

In April 2024, The Comptroller of Maryland released a report on Immigration and the Economy. (<https://marylandtaxes.gov/reports/static-files/research/immigration-economy.pdf>) This report highlights the significant contribution that immigrants have made and continue to make to Maryland’s economy. Commenting on the report, Governor Moore said, “Maryland’s immigrant communities are essential to our state’s workforce and play a critical role in our economic growth. Maryland is a state where immigrants aren’t just welcome, they are necessary — we will continue to look for opportunities

through data, policies, and community partnerships for immigrants to participate more fully in our economy.”

Passing SB 828 is one step to ensuring that immigrants will continue helping Maryland grow and prosper.

Indivisible Howard County urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.