

March 4, 2025

**Testimony on SB 828
Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive
Locations Act)
Judicial Proceedings**

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports SB 828, which would establish clear guidelines restricting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) access to sensitive locations, including schools, courthouses, hospitals, places of worship, and other vital community spaces.

Common Cause Maryland believes that immigrants are integral to this nation's foundation and success, contributing to its standing as the longest-lasting and most successful democracy in history. Yet, by forcing immigrants into the shadows, the Trump administration threatens to undermine the multiracial democracy and safe, thriving neighborhoods we all deserve. The General Assembly choosing to take no action to protect these communities only helps the Administration accomplish its goals in Maryland.

For over a decade, federal policy limited 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 everyone 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.

Protections for sensitive locations will help to limit potential raids that will silence voices in our own neighborhoods, which hurts all Marylanders. We all lose when there are members of our community who are too afraid to call the police when they witness or are the victims of a crime. It's even worse for individuals and their families when they no longer feel safe accessing the services they need.

Everyone should be able to 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. For these reasons, Common Cause Maryland **urges a favorable report on SB 828.**

