

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

March 4, 2025

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

My name is Michelle Mazurek and I am a Silver Spring (District 20) resident. I'm pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (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.

As an educator at the University of Maryland, College Park, I know that fear and stress make it very difficult for my students to do their best work, to learn, and to achieve their educational goals. I have heard about students who are afraid to come to class because they are frightened of ICE activities, and I have heard from teaching assistants who are worrying not about how to help students with their homework and studying but rather how to protect their students if ICE interrupts their activities.

Further, my daughter attends an elementary school with a high proportion of immigrant families, and I have seen firsthand the fear and uncertainty parents in our school community are experiencing, and how it is affecting people's ability to participate in school and community activities.

Both my work and my home communities require security and safety at these critical, sensitive locations. 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. For these reasons, **I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**