

SB 828 - MAP - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Abby Snyder, Co-Chair

Position: FAV



Member Agencies:

211 Maryland
Baltimore Jewish Council
Behavioral Health System Baltimore
CASH Campaign of Maryland
Energy Advocates
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Family League of Baltimore
Fuel Fund of Maryland
Job Opportunities Task Force
Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Loyola University Maryland
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Maryland Community Action Partnership
Maryland Family Network
Maryland Food Bank
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Paul's Place
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore
Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 828

Immigrant Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) supports SB 828, which would direct the Attorney General to issue guidance about limiting immigration enforcement in “sensitive locations” in compliance with federal and state laws.

Like all Marylanders, immigrant families and those who have varying levels of citizenship status have the same needs, desires, and dreams. On a basic level – and as represented in SB 828, this includes access to food, education, child care, transportation, healthcare, shelters, emergency assistance, and access to trusted community places such as community-based organizations and houses of worship. The inability of *any* Marylander to have these needs met is a crisis, but with the added stress and fear of increased immigration enforcement, immigrant families are particularly at risk.

Many potential or perceived barriers to meeting basic household and family needs goes against MAP’s belief that all people have basic human rights, including access to food, affordable and stable housing, adequate and comprehensive health care, and education and vocational opportunities. The safety of our immigrant neighbors is of utmost importance, and even more so for those who are low-income, ineligible for public benefits, and language barriered.

The state’s ability to provide tangible and implementable guidance to our immigrant neighbors can only benefit the safety and prosperity of every Marylander.

MAP appreciates your consideration and respectfully requests that the committee a favorable report for SB 828.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.

2-28-25 SENATE MD Sensitive Locations Testimony LE

Uploaded by: Abril Schujman

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee
February 19, 2025

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

La Clinica del Pueblo is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**

La Clinica is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing comprehensive culturally competent health and community services focusing on improving health outcomes for medically underserved populations. While our services began in the District of Columbia in 1983, our patient population is now mostly made up of Prince George's County, residents, where we operate a primary care clinic and three school-based mental health programs.

As a grantee of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), La Clinica is required to comply with federally mandated guidelines that ensure our facilities are accessible and services remain continuous. However, as of January 20, 2025, a federal policy has been enacted that lifts restrictions on Immigration Customs Enforcement officials' entry into sensitive locations, such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship. This change has made members of our community feel vulnerable in spaces where they should feel safe.

The recent changes have fostered an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty among our patients and students. At our clinical facility in Prince George's County, we have noticed that the fear of Immigration and Customs Enforcement actions is deterring patients from attending their appointments and receiving necessary care.

In the schools we serve, students are increasingly anxious about being in public spaces. Many are afraid to go to school, while parents worry about sending them to school. Most of our students have already heard of friends or acquaintances detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in familiar places like the metro or shopping malls, heightening their fear that they or their parents could be next. As a consequence, our ability to serve our patients and clients has been negatively impacted. We know that our communities' well-being, public health, and overall safety are at serious risk.

www.lcdp.org

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La Casa

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Maryland

2970 Belcrest Center Dr. Unit 301,
Hyattsville, MD 20782
☎ (240) 714-5247



La Clínica del Pueblo supports state-led legislation that safeguards access to essential services for local communities and families, regardless of immigration status. This includes access to healthcare, education, and critical resources without fear or intimidation. As such, La Clínica supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will provide essential guidelines that:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When all Maryland residents feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fears of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

La Clinica del Pueblo **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

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SB828_TahirihJusticeCenter_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Alexander Goyette

Position: FAV

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025**

Witness: María Daniella Prieshoff, Senior Managing Attorney
Tahirih Justice Center

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

The Tahirih Justice Center (Tahirih) is a non-profit legal advocacy organization that, since 1997, has been serving immigrant survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other abuses, in Maryland and other states. Since 2010, Tahirih Justice Center's Maryland office has been at the forefront of advocating for immigrant survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Daily we learn from our clients across Maryland the struggles they face in seeking protection and help as survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence. It is on their behalf that I submit this written testimony today.

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 protective orders for the abuse they suffer, pursuing education or medical care, accessing legal resources, or engaging with law enforcement. This leaves all Maryland communities' public health and safety at risk.

The recent story of our client, “Clara,” illustrates the real and imminent risks immigrant survivors in Maryland face since the revocation of sensitive location protections. Clara has resided and worked in Maryland for more than 10 years. Unfortunately, her U.S. citizen spouse subjected her to brutal and cruel violence and routinely threatened to report her to ICE if she ever reported him to police. Clara desperately petitioned Maryland state court for a protective order against her husband because she feared for her life. During the protective order hearing, Clara's spouse threatened that she would “pay” once she left the courthouse. The judge granted Clara a one-year protective order, but upon her departure from the courthouse, ICE agents confronted Clara, advising her that “someone” had reported her to them. While she had absolutely no criminal history, she was being placed in deportation proceedings.

We know of many other women like Clara who are terrified of seeking the protection entitled to them under Maryland law now that they have no protections against ICE

finding them in locations that should be places of refuge rather than areas of fear.

Our client “Dana” is an example of how the fear of ICE enforcement at sensitive locations impacts survivors. Dana fears of attending a scheduled divorce hearing at a Maryland courthouse. Despite the hearing being crucial to her divorce proceedings, Dana is weighing her attendance against the very real fear of ICE apprehension. Dana fears what may happen to her and her minor child if ICE is present at the courthouse. Even though Dana stands to gain a lot by participating in the divorce proceedings, she is willing to forgo that to protect herself and her child from encountering ICE.

Tahirih Justice Center stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

Tahirih Justice Center urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.

Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Alice Pham

Position: FAV

Alice K Pham

6309 Woodchase Ct, Ellicott City, MD 1046

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,

I am pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

I am a retired teacher, retired from the Howard County Public School System. During my years in the system, I taught many immigrant children. I have seen their hesitancy in approaching official channels, particularly hospitals and police stations. I've heard many cases of crimes unreported because of this fear. I had two girls afraid of reporting an attack, tell me that if they went to the police their families would be deported. Now Those criminals are now free to attack other women. I had a student who wound up in the hospital after trying to commit suicide. His father's reaction was fear and anger, fear for his son, anger that the hospital would report them and they'd be deported. These are only two of many stories I could tell. Even with the laws we passed in Howard County, the new administration's aggressive attempts at deportation and threats to so-called sanctuary cities have increased fear among our immigrant community, making them increasingly hesitant to attend school, use public services, report crimes, get medical care, or even go to church!

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.

Many of my former students are no citizens, but they are hearing stories of wide sweeps by I.C.E. and are increasingly fearful of getting caught up in a raid or having someone else in their family sent to a deportation center. Venezuelans, many in families originally on TPS are hearing ghastly stories about Guantanamo! None of this is what I or you should want our neighbors to be experiencing, They are our state residents, workers, and taxpayers, Our state should assure they are treated with dignity when they use the services they need.

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/ORGANIZATION **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

SB828 Alice Weisko

Uploaded by: Alice Weisko

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828 – Immigration Enforcement- Sensitive Locations-Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee February 19, 2025

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

Dr. Alice Weisko, Psy.D. is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 -Immigration Enforcement- Sensitive Locations-Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

As a psychologist for nearly 40 years I can attest to the trauma and scarring that will arise from ICE agents entering a school to remove a child. It is likely the child or children will resist. The targets as well as friends and classmates who witnessing the struggle, or even a terror-frozen submission, will carry the effects of the trauma for the rest of their lives. A powerful anxiety state will ensue. The sense of safety and trust in their school will be shattered. School will become a place of fear, imbued with the fear of being abruptly ripped away from everything familiar, most especially from their parents. The US Government will be viewed as a malevolent, violent force and teachers and administrators will be seen as impotent to protect them. This is a generation asked to trust teachers with information about peers' plans to self-harm or hurt others. After witnessing an ICE raid they will be far less likely to trust anyone in school again. The captured child's terror will follow them for years. It will be difficult for them to trust anyone and to focus in a classroom. Their and their classmates' anxiety will interfere with concentration. Without concentration there will be no learning. Months of school will be disrupted for the everyone present. Anxiety will haunt the halls of education, damaging all. The students' trust in adults will be shattered. Please prevent this prolonged damage from trauma by barring ICE agents from Maryland schools and their vicinity.

I urge the Committee to provide a positive report on SB828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.

Testimony to Support SB 828.doc.pdf

Uploaded by: Alice Weisko

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828 – Immigration Enforcement- Sensitive Locations-Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee February 19, 2025

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

Dr. Alice Weisko, Psy.D. is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 -Immigration Enforcement- Sensitive Locations-Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

As a psychologist for nearly 40 years I can attest to the trauma and scarring that will arise from ICE agents entering a school to remove a child. It is likely the child or children will resist. The targets as well as friends and classmates who witnessing the struggle, or even a terror-frozen submission, will carry the effects of the trauma for the rest of their lives. A powerful anxiety state will ensue. The sense of safety and trust in their school will be shattered. School will become a place of fear, imbued with the fear of being abruptly ripped away from everything familiar, most especially from their parents. The US Government will be viewed as a malevolent, violent force and teachers and administrators will be seen as impotent to protect them. This is a generation asked to trust teachers with information about peers' plans to self-harm or hurt others. After witnessing an ICE raid they will be far less likely to trust anyone in school again. The captured child's terror will follow them for years. It will be difficult for them to trust anyone and to focus in a classroom. Their and their classmates' anxiety will interfere with concentration. Without concentration there will be no learning. Months of school will be disrupted for the everyone present. Anxiety will haunt the halls of education, damaging all. The students' trust in adults will be shattered. Please prevent this prolonged damage from trauma by barring ICE agents from Maryland schools and their vicinity.

I urge the Committee to provide a positive report on SB828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.

SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.docx.p

Uploaded by: Alicia Pereschuk

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 43. **I am testifying in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

1

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

2

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alicia Pereschuk
319 Homeland Southway
Baltimore MD 21212
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

NDWA DMV Chapter Sensitive Locations Testimony Sen

Uploaded by: Allison Yunda

Position: FAV



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

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

The National Domestic Workers Alliance DMV Chapter is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

The National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) works to win the respect, recognition, and labor rights of the nearly 2.5 million domestic workers—nannies, house cleaners, and homecare workers—who play a crucial role in caring for our families and homes. Domestic workers perform vital tasks that enable all other work to happen. They are the caregivers who look after our children, the cleaners who maintain our homes, and the care providers who help our loved ones live with dignity and independence. While the National Domestic Workers Alliance is a national organization, our DMV chapter is a local, membership-based organization covering the geographical area of Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

Most domestic workers are at the heart of some of the nation's most significant issues due to their identities and roles: they are primarily women—many of whom are women of color, immigrants, mothers, and low-wage earners. Their lives are directly impacted by policies that shape the future of our economy, democracy, and society. And unfortunately, right now, many domestic workers are facing uncertainty and fear due to the federal attacks on immigrant communities.

We are hearing from many of our immigrant members in Maryland that they are living in fear on a daily basis. They are scared to go to places that many of us take for granted, like grocery stores and public transportation hubs. Their fear is multiplied now that they know places that have been off-limits to ICE in the past are now vulnerable as well.

While we will continue to empower our members under any political environment, we know that currently we must prepare for worst case scenarios as well. This is why we host Know-Your-Right trainings and why we're distributing materials that will help them understand their rights in case they encounter ICE or any agency deputized to carry out immigration enforcement directives. We are also assisting our members in developing family preparedness plans in case they are detained and placed into the deportation pipeline. While it is very difficult to think about, we're proactively addressing the important issue of child care—ensuring that there is a plan in place for who will care for their children if they are deported.

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.

If hospitals, schools, courthouses and places of worship are protected from ICE in Maryland, our members will feel a bit of peace in our state where many of them have lived and contributed to for decades.

NDWA DMV Chapter stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

NDWA DMV Chapter **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

BILL NUMBER SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Amanda Rodriguez

Position: FAV



BILL NUMBER: SB828

TITLE: SB828 Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

HEARING DATE: February 19, 2025

POSITION: Support

TurnAround, Inc respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 828. As a designated rape crisis center and domestic violence center, we know the critical importance of providing accessible services to all survivors in locations where they can be and feel safe. TurnAround supports and advocates for survivors of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking. These survivors already face significant hurdles to trusting and accessing systems such as social services and criminal justice, painted with extensive trauma from the violence they have experienced. Some survivors who live in fear of interactions with immigration enforcement ultimately decide to forgo services altogether because they do not know if they will be safe. Developing guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at sensitive locations will help survivors feel safer coming forward to receive critical services after trauma and will help providers enact consistent policies and procedures.

TurnAround appreciates the thoughtfulness of this legislation and requests a favorable report.

sensitive locations sb 828 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrea Miotto

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828 / HB 1006

SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee and House Judiciary Committee

February 19, 2025

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committees,

I strongly **SUPPORT SB 828/HB 1006 Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**. For 10 years, I worked as a chaplain at hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice care providers. I worked with elderly, sick, and dying people and their families in the DC/Baltimore metropolitan area and in small towns and rural areas in Pennsylvania. Many of the families I worked with were immigrants and refugees from around the world, and many were coping with severe vulnerabilities in addition to being sick: they were often seeking employment, working to learn English, and struggling to deal with gigantic medical expenses. Frequently, our patients and their loved ones had endured trauma in their home countries in the form of political repression, imprisonment, famine, harassment because of their religion or ethnicity, gang violence and assault, rape, and even torture.

Regardless of their immigration status, many of my patients had fear or anxiety regarding interacting with authority figures because of these traumatic experiences. It is not easy to trust police or judges after a lifetime of experiences with corrupt, violent, unjust, or bigoted systems. Immigrants frequently fear being exploited, cheated, or trapped by authorities because they do not speak the language. As a member of the clergy, clients who were immigrants often disclosed to me, and asked for prayer and comfort regarding, crimes that had befallen them. I have heard clients share about being victims of rape, armed robbery, assault, domestic violence, and other terrible crimes. It was often difficult to persuade them to report these crimes. Now that immigrants are being openly and aggressively targeted by the Department of the Homeland Security and law enforcement, as directed by the current presidential administration, their fear of going to the police to seek justice has increased exponentially. Now they are often afraid just to come to hospitals and clinics for care they desperately need, even for their children. Health care professionals are having a much tougher time convincing their immigrant patients both to seek health care and to report crimes. More communicable diseases are being left untreated, more criminals are remaining on the streets, and all Marylanders are less healthy and less safe.

In 2010, I worked as an enumerator for the U.S. Census Bureau. At that time, many respondents I sought to interview who were immigrants refused to talk to me or were very reluctant. This is because of the fears of authority figures I mentioned earlier. Without this bill to reassure and protect people who are immigrants and refugees, they will be even less likely to participate in the next Census, making it even less accurate than 2010 or 2020. As a result, Maryland as a whole will suffer because it will receive less representation and less funding.

Another motivation for me to support the passage of this bill is my faith as a Quaker (Religious Society of Friends). I am a member of Patapsco Friends Meeting in District 9A. Our values, which we call testimonies, include equality, community, and peace. The current policy of hunting down immigrants at sensitive locations violates the testimony of community because it tears at the bonds of common humanity which bind all people. It violates the testimony of equality because it creates a separate set of law enforcement rules and standards for one segment of our society. Finally, this practice violates the peace testimony because it divides communities and sets individuals and families against each other, creating conflict and destroying peace.

There is a reason people want to come to the United States: They seek safety, fairness, justice, compassion, and opportunity. I hope we can continue to be a place where people know they can find these principles. **I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.**

Andrea Miotto, District 43A

SB0828_AndrewMiller_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrew Miller

Position: FAV

March 4, 2025

Andrew J. Miller
Baltimore, MD 21209

Testimony on SB0828 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

My name is Andrew Miller. I am a resident of District 11B, Chair of the Social Justice Advocacy Committee at Chizuk Amuno Congregation in Stevenson, MD, and Chair of the Synagogue Social Justice Roundtable, which has representatives from synagogue communities in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0828.

Our sacred texts command us to love the stranger, as we ourselves were once strangers in the land of Egypt, and many of our families came to the United States to escape persecution. For me and for many in my community, protection of immigrants is therefore a sacred obligation. For the last several years our congregation and others have worked in support of Afghan refugee families fleeing the Taliban by providing direct support with the help of refugee relief organizations working in collaboration with the federal government. That collaboration has now been terminated by executive orders of the Trump administration.

Many of us have also worked over the last 8 years, together with immigrant support organizations, to protect the rights of other immigrants who arrived in our country to take refuge from oppressive conditions elsewhere in the world. In 2019 and 2020 I was asked by a small volunteer organization to help a father and his young son who were living in a trailer park in Howard County; he was not authorized to work and could not earn money needed for basic necessities. He had left his home in Central America after his wife died and gangs burned down his fields and threatened to kill him and his son. It was not an idle threat; tens of thousands of innocent civilians in his country have been murdered either by gangs or by the military over the last several decades. Yet the current federal administration is currently dismantling and obstructing access to asylum in this country.

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. Immigrants are important contributors to our economy and to our communities here in Maryland, where

they make up 17% of the population. Crime rates among immigrant populations are much lower than in the general U.S. population.

The Rabbi of my Conservative synagogue in Baltimore County participated in a call with the Rabbinical Assembly last week, during which all synagogues were given guidance to prepare for the possibility of ICE agents entering our buildings with the goal of trying to find and detain employees or others who might be undocumented immigrants. If this is a concern even for suburban synagogues, how much greater the risk facing churches, schools, and hospitals in neighborhoods with large immigrant populations where ICE expects to be able to find and detain those who are undocumented.

The claim will be made that this is not going to happen and is simply spreading fear without basis. If so, why was the policy changed? The Maryland director of ICE says this will never happen. But the Acting Director of ICE at the national level was removed because the quotas were not being met and ICE is being pushed to detain more people, which will inevitably lead to detention of people who have not committed crimes. This shift in policy is creating 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. This is an outrage. With the help of our legislators we must erect legal barriers to make certain that it cannot happen here in Maryland.

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 SB0828.**

SB0828-Sensitive Locations.pdf

Uploaded by: ANNA RUBIN

Position: FAV

SB0828_Ann Rubin_Favorable

Feb. 18, 2025

Position: Favorable

Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

Dr. Anna Rubin, Columbia, MD 21045

TESTIMONY –Favorable - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act HB0828

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony IN FAVOR of SB828. I encourage the members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee to vote in favor of the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act that will require Attorney General Brown to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement. As a member of the Jewish community in Columbia and active in several Jewish and civic organizations, I am moved to support this legislation because of my family’s history of immigration from persecution in the early 1900s and because of my Jewish tradition’s insistence that we welcome the stranger in our midst.

On January 20, 2025, the Trump administration [rescinded](#) a long-standing (since 2011) federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy that proscribed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from entering certain spaces that were deemed sensitive and safe, including schools, hospitals and churches.

Everyone who lives in Maryland should be able to live a life without fear, regardless of race, creed, national origin, sexual orientation and immigration status. Today, that freedom from fear is under threat. Fear is pervasive among our immigrant communities —fear of taking a sick child to an emergency room and fear of a pregnant woman going to hospital, fear of sending your child to a school bus stop to get the education that would mean successful integration into a safe society, fear of reporting to a judge because an ICE agent may be waiting or may be planning a raid on the very places we thought were safe.

By removing the protections of various service providers fundamental to our civil society, the intended fear will pervade our immigrant communities and damage the safety and health and even the prosperity of all Marylanders as access to education, health and life-saving services are essentially cut off, with the risk of public health crises. Requiring Attorney General Brown to issue guidance at the highest level of protection for sensitive locations – schools, hospitals, courthouses, places where children gather – will provide centralized and consistent methods and procedures for all affected places in Maryland.

As recommended by the National Immigration Law Center, the guidance and practices that we must put in place must ensure that schools, hospitals, churches, courthouses and areas that are deemed private:

- Develop a written response policy & preparedness plans in advance.
- Designate an authorized person to review warrants & subpoenas.
- Understand the distinctions between public and private areas.
- Train non-authorized staff & volunteers on how to respond to ICE requests.
- Document all interactions with immigration enforcement.

I and thousands of Jews across Maryland, affirm the values of justice, equity and compassion in human relations, values that are embedded in our Declaration of Rights. No one, regardless of citizenship status, should be afraid to take a sick child to a hospital or visit a physician when her life may depend on it. Please VOTE IN FAVOR of SB828.

Thank you.

Dr. Anna Rubin

Co-Chair Social Justice Committee, Columbia Jewish Congregation

SB 828 - Maryland Food Bank - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Wallerstedt

Position: FAV

SB 828
Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025

SUPPORT

SB 828 directs the Attorney General to issue guidance about limiting immigration enforcement in “sensitive locations” in compliance with federal and state laws.

The Maryland Food Bank estimates that 1 in 3 Marylanders are at risk of food insecurity. A person who is food insecure does not have consistent access to healthy and nutritious food on any given day, and this problem persists in every area of the state. There are also communities and populations who are disproportionately affected by food insecurity, including families with children, older adults, and communities of color. Immigrant families that are facing food insecurity are also burdened by unique challenges, such as the availability of foods that are culturally familiar. The causes of food insecurity are complex and often include factors such as financial hardship and low income.

SB 828 explicitly lists food banks as a “sensitive location,” along with partners and places in which we provide food assistance including food pantries, homeless shelters, schools, health clinics, after-school care centers and recreation centers, emergency food distributions, and community-based organizations. The importance of these locations being considered “safe” for all persons – but for SB 828, families that consist of neighbors with varying levels of citizenship status – cannot be overstated. The physical, mental, and emotional safety of neighbors visiting their local food pantries, attending a food distribution, or benefitting from their school pantry for example are additional layers that stress the importance of ensuring that our network of partners is dignified and open for all. The Maryland Food Bank believes that food is a basic human right, and access to food resources is absolutely necessary; fear cannot and should not be a barrier to that right.

The Maryland Food Bank has open lines of communication with our almost 800 partners all across the state to determine the impacts of assumed and planned increases to immigration enforcement throughout the communities we serve. We anticipate that our partners may see a *decrease* in food distribution due to deportation fears. Our additional concern is that we have partners that know of families who come regularly and may have suddenly stopped – yet their need for food assistance has not subsided. The state’s ability to provide tangible and implementable guidance to these partners – the breadth of which are listed above – can only benefit our joint efforts and shared goal of feeding Marylanders who are affected by hunger.

For these reasons, the Maryland Food Bank appreciates the Committee’s consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 828.

ANNE WALLERSTEDT, ESQ.
Vice President, Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives
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MATTHEW CAPODANNO
Manager, Government Relations
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Testimony Fati lugares sensibles en MD.pdf

Uploaded by: Antonia Pena

Position: FAV

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,

My name is Fatima Cortessi, and I am a mother, a resident of Rockville, an immigrant, and a proud member of the National Domestic Workers Alliance. I am here to offer my testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

Before having any form of protection around my immigration status in this country, I lived in constant fear. At work, I was threatened to be reported to immigration enforcement if I asked for better working conditions or fair payment for my labor. This fear not only impacted my peace of mind but also prevented me from seeking help or accessing essential services. Now that I have some protection, I can breathe a little easier, but I can't imagine how those who have nothing must feel, living each day under the shadow of this fear.

The possibility of facing immigration enforcement in sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, courthouses, and places of worship creates an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty in our communities. This fear not only affects people like me who work hard to support their families but also our children, who deserve to attend school without fear and grow up feeling safe in their communities.

This bill is crucial because it will:

- **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Our children deserve to attend school without fear, and everyone must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
- **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which negatively impacts public safety.
- **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

As a mother, an immigrant, and a domestic worker, I respectfully urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828. Protecting these sensitive locations not only benefits immigrant families but also strengthens our entire community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB828_RabbiArianaKatz_JUFJ_FAV (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Ariana Katz

Position: FAV

February 19, 2025

Rabbi Ariana Katz
Baltimore, Maryland 21218



TESTIMONY ON SB 828 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Rabbi Ariana Katz, on behalf of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ)

My name is Rabbi Ariana Katz. I am a resident of District 43 in Baltimore City. I am a parent, neighbor, and congregational rabbi of a 250 family synagogue. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Jews United for Justice in support of SB 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. JUFJ organizes 6,000 Jews and allies from across Maryland in support of state and local social, racial, and economic justice campaigns.

“V’asu li mikdash v’shachanti btocham,” says God in Exodus 25:8. Make for me a sanctuary, that I may dwell amongst them. Our houses of worship, our schools, our hospitals, and our public gatherings are all sanctuaries that make it possible for the Divine to rest among us. It is our community's trust that when they are with us, they can pray, learn, heal, and gather in safety. The increased ferocity of ICE officials raiding any location in our community is a *shande*, an outrageous shame. All the more so in these previously protected sacred places. *Vasu li mikdash v’shachanti btocham*. To all our undocumented family, we will keep working to make sanctuary with you, because the divine dwells where you dwell.

As we witness and experience immigrant members of our communities coming under attack by the new federal administration, we are counting on the General Assembly to act swiftly in response to these federal attacks. The state must act as well. This includes passing this emergency legislation to limit ICE access to essential spaces, including schools, courthouses, healthcare facilities, and places of worship.

On behalf of JUFJ, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 828.

SB0828_ArielleJuberg_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Arielle Juberg

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

As someone who attends church, I think it is immoral and cruel for ICE to enter a house of worship to conduct enforcement activities.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** strengthens Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 —Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Arielle Juberg
3411 Upton Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

Support- SB 828- Protecting Sensitive Locations Ac

Uploaded by: Ashley Egan

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony IN SUPPORT OF SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

To: Senator Will Smith, Jr, Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Jim Caldiero, Immigration Lead Advocate,
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Date: March 4, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony IN FAVOR of **SB 828**. I encourage the members of the Judiciary Committee to vote in favor of **the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**.

We believe that everyone who lives in Maryland should be able to live a life without fear, regardless of race, creed, national origin, sexual orientation and immigration status. Today, that freedom from fear is under threat.

On January 20, 2025, the Trump administration rescinded federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy that proscribed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from entering certain spaces that were deemed sensitive and safe, including schools, hospitals and churches. This long-standing policy was instituted in 2011¹.

Fear is pervasive among our immigrant communities. It manifests as the fear of taking a sick child to an emergency room, the fear of a pregnant woman going to hospital, the fear of sending your child to a school bus stop to get the education that would mean successful integration into a safe society, the fear of reporting to a judge because an ICE agent may be waiting or may be planning a raid on the very places we thought were safe – hospitals, schools, churches, courthouses. It is critical that these sensitive locations remain safe from immigration enforcement to ensure that all members of our communities have continued access to basic services without fear. For example, if an immigrant neighbor who contracts a communicable disease is afraid to visit a hospital, others in the community are placed at risk. The Trump administration's rescission of the sensitive locations policy threatens the security and safety of all in our communities.

By removing the protections of schools, hospitals, churches, social service facilities such as domestic violence centers which are fundamental to our civil society, the intended fear will pervade our immigrant communities and damage the safety and health and even the prosperity of all Marylanders as access to education, health and life-saving services are essentially cut off, placing entire communities at risk of public health crises. Fear of workplace raids will have a chilling effect on the Maryland economy as service and product delivery may be impaired.

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.twitter.com/uulmmd

Requiring Attorney General Brown to issue guidance to clarify the highest level of protection for sensitive locations—schools, hospitals, courthouses, places where children gather—will provide centralized and consistent methods and procedures for all affected places in Maryland.

As recommended by the National Immigration Law Center, the guidance and practices that we must put in place must ensure that schools, hospitals, churches, courthouses and areas that are deemed private:

- Develop a written response policy and preparedness plans in advance.
- Designate an authorized person to review warrants and subpoenas.
- Understand the distinctions between public and private areas.
- Train non-authorized staff and volunteers on how to respond to ICE requests.
- Document all interactions with immigration enforcement.
- Connect with immigration response networks in your area.

I share my faith with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across Maryland, a faith that promotes and affirms the values of justice, equity and compassion in human relations, values that are embedded in our Declaration of Rights. We believe that no one, regardless of citizenship status, should be afraid to take a sick child to a hospital or visit a physician when her life may depend on it. We believe that no parent should be afraid to see their child off to the school that will offer that child the opportunity to learn and become a productive member of our society. Hanging on my wall are four Norman Rockwell paintings of President Franklin Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms." The painting of "Freedom From Fear" features parents standing over their child's bed as he sleeps safely. We believe that freedom from fear is the birthright of every person living in Maryland.

Please VOTE IN FAVOR of **SB 828**.

Thank you.

Jim Caldiero

4128 Lotus Circle,
Ellicott City, MD 21043,
cell: 443-520-1568

¹ <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/homan-defends-immigration-raids-at-middle-elementary-schools/ar-AA1xUduw?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

¹ 2021, MGA HB 23

SB828_BarbGoyette_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Barbara Goyette

Position: FAV

Protecting Sensitive Locations Act HB1006/ SB828

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006

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,

My name is Barbara Goyette, and I am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

I have been a nurse for almost 40 years. I currently work in a medical office seeing patients in an outpatient setting. Medical professionals treat all patients, without asking their immigration status. It is imperative that patients are able access medical care without fear of ICE being allowed access to their physician's office.

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.

If immigrant communities are afraid that ICE has access to their medical provider's office, they will stop seeking medical care. Parents will not bring their children to the pediatrician to get important vaccinations, will not keep well care appointments which assess the child's development, or access sick child care. Adults will stop getting life saving cancer screening, vaccinations, and treatment for acute and chronic medical issues. This will not only impact the individual's health, but public health as well. Unvaccinated people run the risk of not only becoming infected by serious illnesses, but also infecting others. Everyone has the right to medical care and the right to seek that care without fear of ICE. They have the right to privacy. The right to have private conversations with medical professionals without fear of being overheard by ICE officials. Medical facilities need to be safe and accessible to all patients and their families.

I stand with immigrant communities and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

Protect Access to Essential Services: No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.

Enhance Public Safety: When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.

Strengthen Community Trust: By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act_BH.pdf

Uploaded by: Barbara Hauck

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a voter, homeowner, and active community member. **I am testifying in support of SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**. Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hauck
3420 Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21218

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

1

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

2

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Brendan Murray

Position: FAV

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 Brendan Murray, and I live in Howard County. It scares me to no end to think that when my child would be in a classroom setting, he would not only need to contend with so many issues that never happened when I attended school in Maryland. The list of worries is endless. Let's put aside the reason for him attending school and his grades and focus on the other factors. The ever-increasing pressures of social media, safety from school shootings, and we want to add on armed ICE agents entering our schools? How would they know if the officers were coming to protect them or to grab one of their classmates?

For any age, these stresses seem like there will be more time spent in a therapy office and less time being a kid. Please vote in favor of keeping sensitive locations off-limits to those who don't have warrants.

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.

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 **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

MLU Support Letter - SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Carlos Orbe, Jr.

Position: FAV

February 28, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for SB 828 – Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU), I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. This bill is about dignity, safety, and ensuring that every Marylander, regardless of immigration status, can access essential services without fear. No one should have to think twice before taking their child to school, seeking medical care, attending a place of worship, or stepping into a courthouse to seek justice. Yet, for many in our community, that fear is real. It keeps parents from enrolling their children in school, patients from visiting a doctor, and survivors of violence from reporting abuse. This is not who we are as a state.

By requiring the Attorney General to establish clear guidelines restricting immigration enforcement in schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, public assistance offices, and courthouses, this bill provides the certainty and protection our communities desperately need. It empowers local agencies to adopt these policies, ensuring that vital institutions remain places of trust, not fear. The impact of this cannot be overstated—when people feel safe seeking medical care, our entire healthcare system benefits. When students can attend school without fear of separation from their families, they thrive. When survivors of violence can seek justice without hesitation, our communities become safer.

For Maryland's Latino and immigrant populations, this bill offers more than just legal protections; it provides peace of mind. We have heard too many stories of individuals skipping doctor's appointments, missing school events, or enduring abuse in silence because they feared encountering immigration enforcement. This is a reality we must change. At MLU, we work every day to dismantle these barriers—through advocacy, education, and direct outreach—but real change requires legislative action. SB 828 is that action.

We will not only support its passage but also work to ensure its success. Through community partnerships, outreach initiatives, and continued advocacy, we will educate our communities about their rights and the protections this bill provides. We will stand alongside our partners in schools, healthcare centers, and legal aid organizations to make sure that fear is replaced with trust, that uncertainty is replaced with clarity, and that all Marylanders—regardless of where they were born—are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to stand with us and issue a favorable report on SB 828. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carlos Orbe, Jr.
Communications and Public Affairs Specialist
Maryland Latinos Unidos
corbejr@mdlatinosunidos.org

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Carol Schlenker

Position: FAV

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,

I am pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

In addition to being a resident of Rockville for more than 26 years, I've been a volunteer with the Catholic Charities program at the [Montgomery County Family Justice Center](#) (MCFJC) for more than 15 years.¹ MCFJC co-locates multiple agencies in a safe and secure facility in Rockville to provide coordinated advocacy, government, civil legal services, and social services for survivors of domestic violence (DV) and their children. In the Catholic Charities office at MCFJC, we volunteers screen immigrant survivors of DV to determine whether they are eligible for relief under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and/or for a U visa, a special visa for immigrants who assist law enforcement in the detection, investigation and prosecution of violent crimes, including DV. I do this work because it builds peace in my community in at least two ways: First, if we can help a client escape an abusive relationship, that's a step towards healing them and their children—sometimes even saving their lives. Second, it's beneficial to the wider community. A 2021 [study](#) in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Injury Epidemiology* found that more than two-thirds of mass shootings are DV incidents or are perpetrated by shooters with a history of DV. DV survivors are the proverbial canaries in the coal mine. Protect them and we protect ourselves.

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.

¹ Note that I am writing in my capacity as a volunteer and a Maryland voter, not on behalf of either MCFJC or Catholic Charities.

My fear as a volunteer is that our clients will become more afraid of ICE arrests at sensitive locations like the MCFJC than they are of the terrible abuse they and their children they suffer at home. It takes enormous courage for our clients to seek help under the best of circumstances. If we add the possibility of ICE arresting them on their way to or from the MCFJC, we create another obstacle to them breaking the cycle of violence for themselves and their children and put our own safety at risk.

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.**

Sincerely,

Carol Schlenker

Carol Schlenker

CarolStern_SB828_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: CAROL STERN

Position: FAV

February 28, 2025

**Carol Stern
4550 North Park Avenue, Apt T106
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815**

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

TO: Chair Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Carol Stern

My name is Carol Stern, and I am testifying in favor of, as a resident of Montgomery County's District 16 and a member of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda.

Our sacred text and tradition teach us to welcome the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Leviticus 19:34 explicitly instructs us to treat the immigrant in our land the same as native citizens. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan wrote "teach us to respect the integrity of every human soul be it that of a friend or stranger, child or adult." When we are working to reform our immigration justice system, we must demand that it operates in accordance with these deeply held Jewish beliefs.

No one should hesitate to seek life-saving care or attend school due to fear of immigration enforcement. This act establishes clear guidelines restricting ICE access to sensitive locations, including schools, courthouses, hospitals, places of worship, and other vital spaces. 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.

It appears that the Executive Order issued on January 20, 2025 was so broad that places that are no longer protected also include: Crisis and/or drop-in centers, Homeless shelters, Domestic violence shelters and/or victims' services centers, Food banks and/or pantries. Community-based organizations, Places where children gather (including playgrounds, child care centers, or group homes for children) and Disaster/emergency response sites, and areas "near" these places, such as sidewalks, entrances, and parking lots.

The State of Maryland must take a stand and do everything it can to protect our immigrant residents, who pay taxes, work hard for our communities, and are a vibrant part of our society.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB828.

SB828_Bergmann_Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Catherine Bergmann

Position: FAV

February 28, 2025

TESTIMONY ON SB 828/HB 1006 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Immigration Enforcement — Sensitive Locations — Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Catherine Bergmann, PhD, MPH

My name is Catherine Bergmann. I am a resident of District 22. I am submitting this testimony in support of (SB 828/HB 1006), Immigration Enforcement — Sensitive Locations — Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

I support immigrant rights, in part because I'm the daughter of immigrants. My Jewish parents were born in Germany in 1925. They grew up in the hostile Nazi environment and experienced dangerous anti-semitism daily. As Jews, they were removed from the public schools. Their places of worship were attacked. They could only see Jewish medical providers. Many of their relatives were killed in extermination camps. They each escaped as teenagers in 1937. My mother spent time in the Netherlands before moving to the US. My maternal grandfather was permitted to take only \$10 cash from Germany, so they had little money in those early years. My dad escaped to Switzerland and came to the US in 1946 at the age of 21. Although he had no English, he quickly found work to support his mother and grandmother. My parents married in 1950 and became naturalized citizens. I was the first in the family to be born in the US.

While growing up I was told that Nazi atrocities happened because ordinary Germans along with the rest of the world let them happen. It is necessary to speak up and fight against authoritarian power. I also learned that the Nazis started with immigrants.

I've lived in Riverdale Park, Maryland for 32 years. My husband and I raised our children here. Now, in 2025, I see parallels between our current federal government and the fascist Germany in which my parents grew up. The Trump administration has allowed ICE enforcers to enter sensitive locations: schools, churches, and hospitals. Children are avoiding school to avoid family separation by ICE. Churches are no longer safe havens. Immigrants are avoiding necessary medical care. Just like what my parents experienced in Nazi Germany.

We need to protect sensitive sites from over-reaching and cruel immigration enforcement. Maryland is better than that.

I respectfully urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

Thank you.

SB 828 Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locatio

Uploaded by: Catherine OMalley

Position: FAV

BILL NO: Senate Bill 828
TITLE: Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: March 4, 2025
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is dedicated to ensuring the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women throughout the state. We vehemently support Senate Bill 828 as protecting sensitive locations from immigration enforcement is essential to ensuring that everyone in our community can access basic services and support without fear.

SB 828 designates a number of locales as 'sensitive' and necessitates the limiting of immigration enforcement at those venues for the immediate preservation of public health or safety. 'Sensitive locations' includes schools, medical facilities, places of worship, courthouses, domestic violence shelters, and more. On January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration rescinded protections on these areas, empowering ICE agents with unbridled authority to take enforcement actions in any of these spaces. While the rescission's fear tactics among immigrant communities are undeniable, protected areas are also unique in that overall public health and safety suffer if any particular community is precluded or afraid to access them. Public health suffers on a large scale, for example, when any one community becomes unable or afraid to access vaccination sites or clinics to receive care for contagious diseases.

Abusers and perpetrators of crime also benefit when threat of immigration enforcement silences survivors. Noncitizen survivors are currently forced to make an impossible choice between staying in a violent relationship or facing the violence of deportation. Just a week after the federal protections on sensitive locations were removed, one of our clients was threatened by their partner that ICE would be waiting for her at the courthouse if she appeared for her protective order case. Fortunately, the threat did not materialize at that time, but without SB 828, every time an immigrant seeks legal protections from violence they risk ICE intervention and never seeing their families again. The impact of immigration enforcement at courthouses greatly undermines the security of vulnerable communities and the fundamental right to equal protection under the law, shared by noncitizens and citizens alike. For those of us not at imminent risk of deportation, this apprehension also results in more violent criminals operating unchecked in our communities and threatening overall public safety.

SB 828 makes clear that Maryland stands firmly against fear-mongering and intimidation, and supports fundamental rights like access to medical care and education. By creating an environment that not only excludes but endangers noncitizens and their relatives from seeking social services or remedies through the courts, federal policy is jeopardizing the safety of all Marylanders. We strongly urge a favorable report on SB 828 and ensuring that Maryland values of dignity and compassion are applied to everyone.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. Our mission is advanced through direct legal services, information and referral hotlines, and statewide advocacy.

SB828_CindyBrach_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecile Brach

Position: FAV

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,

Below is my favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

Until recently, I worked for the Department of Health and Human Services to improve healthcare, particularly for diverse populations. I strove to make healthcare more accessible to people who speak different languages and come from different cultures. Now the current administration aims to make essential services like healthcare and education hostile environments. Immigrants face substantial barriers to obtaining services even when they are not threatened with detention and deportation. There is no question in my mind that if we do not stop Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from entering and disrupting sensitive areas, people will avoid these places and suffer as a result.

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 they should feel safe.

It is not the first time immigration policy has been used for political purposes, but now it is even worse. In the 1980's the Reagan administration denied refugee status to people fleeing dangerous regimes that the U.S. was supporting. A sanctuary movement sprang up with churches and synagogues providing protection and shelter to these refugees. Now the current administration would violate even the sanctity of houses of worship and hunt people down where they pray.

Already I have heard of neighbors avoiding going to health clinics or to their children's school out of fear. If we do not act to protect these sensitive places, our communities, public health, and overall safety will be at risk. Everyone should be able to access essential services without fear of detention or separation. Clear enforcement boundaries build trust, strengthening communities and institutions. For these reasons, **I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

SB0828 Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locatio

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0828 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Given the current environment, we need to protect schools, medical facilities, places of worship, and other areas where vulnerable populations gather from immigration enforcement activities. The bill aims to ensure that these sensitive locations remain safe and accessible without the fear of immigration enforcement disrupting their operations and the lives of those who depend on them.

SB0828 requires the Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at sensitive locations. State agencies operating at these locations must adopt policies consistent with these guidelines or provide written notice if they choose not to adopt them.

By protecting sensitive locations from immigration enforcement activities, SB0828 ensures that these areas remain safe havens for vulnerable populations, including children, patients, and individuals seeking social services. This protection fosters a sense of security and trust within the community, allowing residents to access essential services without fear of disruption. The bill aligns with Maryland's commitment to upholding human rights and dignity, ensuring that sensitive locations remain accessible and supportive environments for all.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition steadfastly supports this bill and similar initiatives that support all Marylanders and help us feel secure.

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Charlene Belsom Zellmer

Position: FAV

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:

I, Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer, am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

For nearly a decade, I have worked in the community for justice, equity, and fairness for our immigrant neighbors and siblings. As an interfaith minister, I have witnessed the generosity of faith communities, local organizations, schools, healthcare facilities, and neighbors throughout our State, without regard to immigration status. These expressions of inclusion represent the values that I live and work by and that I have come to expect of Marylanders. As a leader in hosting a woman who was forced to take Sanctuary in Montgomery County during the last Trump administration, I can attest to the comfort that she and her family and our hundreds of volunteers felt knowing that they were relatively safe from ICE enforcement at the congregation while she proceeded with her asylum case. I am determined to protect this expression of safety in our community by maintaining the designation of sensitive locations. Rescinding this vital protection for the families I serve would cause undue fear and potential hardship as they try to worship, receive healthcare, attend school events and go to work among other day-to-day activities so vital to maintaining their routine lives in our State.

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.

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.**

Sincerely,

**Rev. Charlene Belsom Zellmer, MDiv
7405 Arlington Rd. Unit 202
Bethesda MD 20814**

AFSCME Council 3 SB828 Testimony_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Christian Gobel

Position: FAV



1410 Bush Street (Suite A)
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410-547-1515
Email: info@afscmemd.org

Patrick Moran – President

**SB828 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025**

FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 supports Senate Bill 828. AFSCME Council 3 represents approximately 50,000 public service workers across the state, county, and municipal levels of government. Across Maryland, AFSCME members are on the front lines delivering essential public services that support our communities.

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 make certain individuals had access to crucial 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.

Many AFSCME members are immigrants themselves and support the safety and security of immigrant communities, particularly access to crucial services that involve individuals' ability to seek services for their health and well-being.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 828

SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.docx.p

Uploaded by: Christina Nemphos

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of **District 40 and live in the Medfield neighborhood of Baltimore**. I am testifying in **support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**.



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

People come to the United States for such a wide variety of reasons -- opportunity, escaping hardship, personal safety, to be reunited with family, the list goes on -- and greatly contribute to our economy and our communities. We must do what we know to be right and honor the dignity of all Maryland residents by offering this modest amount of protection to essential locations.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**. Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christina L Bell
1301 W 42nd St., Baltimore, Md 2121
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

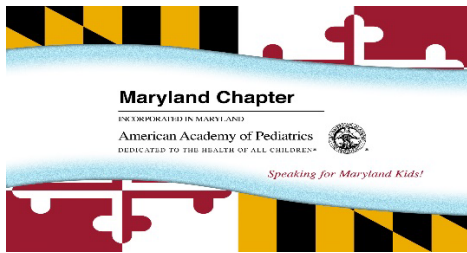
¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

SB0828_FAV_MDAAP_Immigration Enforcement - Sensiti

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 4, 2025

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

I am writing as Co-Chair of the Maryland AAP’s Immigrant Child Health Committee to express my strong support for the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. This legislation is essential to ensuring that children – many of whom are US citizens—can access critical medical care and education without fear.

As a primary care pediatrician in Baltimore City, I serve primarily children from immigrant and mixed immigration status families. I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact the rollback of protections for sensitive locations has had on children’s health. My colleagues and I have countless examples, but I will share just one to highlight the importance of this legislation.

Several months ago, I began caring for a previously healthy young girl “Maria” who suffered severe brain injury after being thrown from the vehicle during a severe car accident. Currently, Maria uses a wheelchair and a feeding tube due to her injuries. With the appropriate therapies and medical care, Maria was making remarkable progress—recently even taking her first steps since the accident. However, last month, Maria’s mother canceled all her appointments, stating she was terrified that immigration enforcement agents might take her away from the clinic. I have not been able to reach them since. The window for Maria’s brain recovery is closing. Without continued therapy and treatment, it is very possible she may never walk again, never eat again by mouth, and never reach her full potential.

Maria is not alone, every day we receive calls from families—many of whom have been our patients for years—telling us they will no longer bring their children to clinic because of immigration enforcement fears. Most of these children are American citizens living in mixed status families. This fear has serious public health implications as well—children are falling behind on routine vaccines, increasing the risks of outbreaks of measles, whooping cough, and other preventable diseases in Maryland.

Please vote yes on the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. No child should be denied access to essential healthcare out of fear. Please help ensure that all Maryland Children have the opportunity to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential.

For more information call:

Dr. Hayley Sparks

SEIU Local 500 Testimony in Support of SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Christopher Cano

Position: FAV



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

Favorable

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 4, 2025

Christopher C. Cano, MPA

Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

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.

SB0828_ClaireLanders_ Immigrant Protection Act Fav

Uploaded by: Claire Landers

Position: FAV

2/28/25

Claire Landers

Baltimore County, 21209

**Testimony on SB0828 - Position FAVORABLE
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**

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

I am Claire Landers, a Maryland resident of Baltimore County, offering **favorable testimony in strong support of SB0828 the “Protecting Sensitive Locations Act”**.

Just weeks ago, in a Baltimore County Public School, a school teacher obsessively contacted ICE to report immigrant students and assist in their removal by ICE agents: As a Jew and a parent, I just could not help but feel that this teacher would have been "employee of the month" in Nazi Germany's purge of Jewish students in the 1930's; it just takes my breath away to know that an adult with such venomous character toward immigrant kids was reaching out to ICE to assure they would be deported.

I am a member of the Jewish community in Pikesville, where I would wager every local Jewish family here established themselves via at least one ancestor who fled persecution and/or extreme economic hardship from Russian cossacks at in the late 19th-early 20th century, Nazi persecution in the 1930's, Holocaust concentration camps post-WWII, Soviet persecution in the 1970's-80's and Khomeini's Iran in the 1980's-90's. They most certainly were *not* always welcomed here due to antisemitism and rank xenophobia from many, many Americans.

As immigrants, their goal was to obtain safety and achieve economic stability for their families. I venture to assert that Baltimore and Maryland have benefited from these waves of Jewish – and other immigrants in past decades – who became citizens and have made their own significant contributions to our great state, our nation and the collective American Dream.

Today's immigrants in Maryland are similarly fleeing dangerous, criminal regimes and extreme poverty in Central America, Mexico, Haiti and elsewhere. And these immigrants have become the backbone of the low-wage, hard labor service economy that Maryland businesses and individuals deeply depend on: Immigrants prepare food and bus tables in our restaurants, provide child care for working families and nursing care for elders, they are the low-wage demolition and construction crews, they landscape lawns for homes and commercial buildings, they clean houses in the daytime and offices overnight, they process the chickens and seafood we serve for dinner...and more. As a vital group of people who keep our communities functioning here, Maryland's immigrants deserve some basic respect not fear-mongering by our legislature.

For over a decade, federal policy explicitly 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, our federal government targets immigrants to score political points within a MAGA agenda. An infinitesimal number of total immigrants in Maryland are “criminals”, yet they are demonized as a group by our national leaders and their ethno-nationalist supporters.

Immigrant children, adults and elders deserve fundamental safety and peace of mind while children are in school during the day and participating in after-school programming on County property. Or when they or family members are patients in hospitals. Or worshipping in their faith communities.

SB0828 ensures that Maryland law would treat human beings who are immigrants here with a very basic level of human decency

For all of the reasons above, I ask you to uphold our best collective values in Maryland and vote to support SB 828

KIND testimony _Support SB 828 MD_ Sensitive Locati

Uploaded by: Cristiana Little

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland General Assembly
March 4, 2025

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

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) offers **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

KIND is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing legal representation and advocating for the rights of unaccompanied immigrant children, including many who reside in Maryland. Since opening in 2009, KIND's Baltimore office has served over 1,000 unaccompanied and separated immigrant children, helping them seek safety through immigration relief, and feel integrated, included, and welcomed into their communities.

Maryland consistently ranks among the top seven states receiving the highest number of unaccompanied children released by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to family members and caregivers in the community (3,652 children in FY 2024, and 4,950 in FY 2023).¹ Ensuring that all children and families can access critical services—such as schools, medical care, places of worship, and courthouses—without fear of immigration enforcement is essential to the well-being of Maryland's communities.

SB 828 would provide state agencies with guidance on the essential protections for sensitive locations, ensuring that immigrant children and families are not deterred from accessing necessary services due to the threat of immigration enforcement actions. Across the country, we have seen the harmful impact that immigration enforcement in sensitive locations has on children's education, health, and safety. Children already fleeing violence, persecution, and instability should not face further barriers to obtaining legal, educational, and medical assistance due to fear of enforcement actions at or near these essential locations.

For children who are navigating complex immigration proceedings, access to legal and social services is critical. Many of the children we serve at KIND depend on school-based support systems, community healthcare clinics, and other service providers to help them recover from trauma, integrate into their new communities, and obtain legal protections they are eligible for. If families fear that seeking assistance could lead to detention or deportation, they may forgo

¹ 1 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, "Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors By State," last accessed February 13, 2025, available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/grantfunding/unaccompanied-children-released-sponsors-state>.

essential services, leading to negative long-term outcomes for the entire community. Ensuring that people do not unnecessarily fear immigration enforcement also strengthens public safety by increasing trust in local services, including law enforcement. When families feel secure, they are more likely to call 911 in emergencies, report crimes, and cooperate with local police—helping to create safer, more resilient communities for everyone.

This legislation aligns Maryland with best practices that promote public safety and uphold the dignity of all residents, regardless of immigration status. Providing clear guidance for agencies that operate at certain sensitive locations is a best practice modeled by similar legislation in California and Washington State. KIND has offices in both of those states, and we have seen firsthand how legislation which provides clear guidance and instruction to state agencies has positively impacted the children we serve. These protections enable children to access the services they need to integrate and thrive in their new communities while also reducing further traumatization. Additionally, through our work with stakeholders in the community we have heard from educators, school staff, and health care providers that there is a desire for clear guidance on what their role should be in protecting the rights of immigrant children they serve. To effectively support immigrant children and uphold these protections, the state must equip those working in the community with specific, accessible guidance to ensure they can confidently fulfill their roles and responsibilities.

KIND urges the committee to provide favorable report of SB 828 – which will provide much-needed assurance that sensitive locations remain safe spaces for all Marylanders. We appreciate your leadership in advancing policies that uphold the rights and well-being of immigrant children and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/

Alejandra Morisi, Esq.
Managing Director, Baltimore
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
amorisi@supportkind.org

/s/

Cindy Liou
U.S. State and Local Policy, Vice President
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
cliou@supportkind.org

/s/

Cristiana Little
Senior Policy Associate
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
clittle@supportkind.org

SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Daryl Yoder

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 44A. **I am testifying in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

1

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

2

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daryl Yoder

309 Glenmore Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB 828 Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locatio

Uploaded by: deborah miller

Position: FAV



**Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement –
Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish agencies, synagogues, and schools throughout the region. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on justice, tolerance, and equity. We advocate on behalf of our social service agencies, which serve the most vulnerable on a non-sectarian basis. We also campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders.

The JCRC supports Senate Bill 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, which requires the Attorney General to establish guidelines for immigration enforcement including the protection of houses of worship from immigration raids. Our synagogues must remain safe and welcoming to all and our First Amendment right to religious liberty must be protected regardless of immigration status. SB 828 gets to the heart of Jewish law and tradition, which commands us 36 times in the Torah to welcome the stranger and help those in need as we know what it feels like to be a newcomer and surrounded by people who are hostile.

For more than a decade, federal policy has limited Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from entering sensitive locations including places of worship and we will not stand idly by as new policies threaten immigrants and instill fear inside houses of worship. The JCRC's long-standing immigration policy resolution opposes state and local legislation that would direct local law enforcement agencies to seek out undocumented immigrants and to detain them for deportation by federal authorities. In Montgomery County we have been leaders in advocating for the immigrant community and we will continue to do so.

During times of uncertainty and instability, people often turn to their religious institutions for comfort and care. Our synagogues have worked closely with other interfaith leaders to help settle refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine, and along with our wonderful partner, Identity, we've helped newcomers from the southern border. The JCRC is committed to ensuring that everyone can practice their religion freely and Maryland remains an inclusive, compassionate and welcoming community to immigrants during this period of instability and fear. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report for Senate Bill 828.

Senate Bill 828 Sensitive Locations.pdf

Uploaded by: Deirdre Citro

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 828

Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

Sponsored By: Senator Smith

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

This is my first time submitting a written testimony to my MD General assembly. I do hope I cover all the bases. And I will keep it short.

At my Quaker Meeting (Patapsco Friends Meeting, Ellicott City, MD) we have discussed this Immigrant situation several times and are aware of the Senate Bill 828.

I am very much in favor of the “Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.”

As a Quaker, shoot, as a human being, it is important that all citizens and visitors know there are places of worship, social services, schools, etc, that are safe places.

I trust that Maryland State Assembly will outline reasonable and thoughtful policies related to immigration enforcement. Keeping in mind that immigrants are people with very real needs regardless of their immigration status.

Thank you,

Deirdre Foley Citro

8379 Merryman Street, Ste 2

Ellicott City, MD 20852

Quakernana@gmail.com

717.940.8955

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominique Ashen

Position: FAV

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 Dominique Ashen PhD, CRNP and I am a nurse practitioner providing direct preventive cardiovascular care services to undocumented immigrants in Baltimore. I am pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

I am inspired to support the mission of providing safety and service to my patients in the health care center where I work which has been and should remain a sensitive location. I strongly support HB 1006 and want to prevent a rescission that would open the private area of health care centers like mine to immigration enforcement action which would create fear in patients and disrupt life saving health services. If they are afraid they will not come for the care they need.

In fact, all locations deemed sensitive, including schools, social services establishments, and places of worship, to name a few, are private and should be protected as such. They should not be accessible to ICE agents.

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. 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, Dominique Ashen, urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

WAPO letter 2-4-2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Elaine Wilson

Position: FAV

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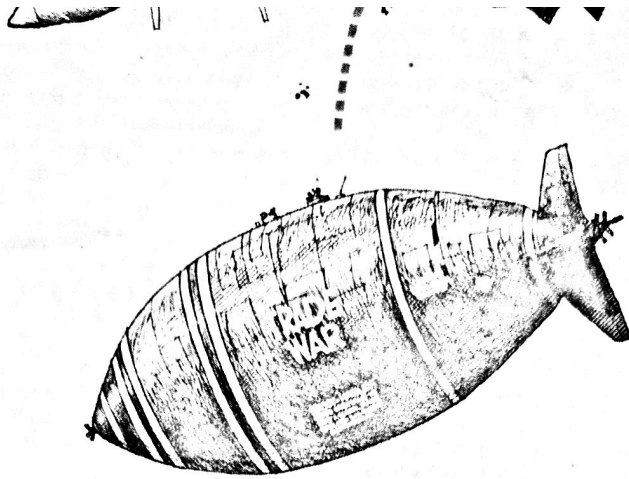
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Guest opinion submissions

The Washington Post accepts opin
 topic. We welcome submissions on
 international issues. We publish wo
 and format, including multimedia. S
 at oped@washpost.com or read o
 opinion article at wapo.st/guestop

Stay away from our worship

Regarding the Jan. 27 article "Trump officials issue quotas to ICE officers in attempt to ramp up arrests":

The new administration is trying to demonize immigrants and refugees and justify extreme anti-immigrant policies that are at odds with the core ethics of the prophetic Jewish tradition and the teachings of Jesus. One example is then-Department of Homeland Security acting secretary Benjamin Huffman revoking a directive that barred armed Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from invading houses of worship without permission. As Quakers, we object to this heartless attack on religious liberty.

In response, we stand in full support of a lawsuit filed on Jan. 27 in the U.S. District Court in Maryland challenging Homeland Security's authorization. Two D.C.-area Quaker meetings, Adelphi Friends and Richmond Friends, have joined three regional Quaker bodies — Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting — as plaintiffs in the suit.

As clerks at Friends Meeting of Washington, we are committed to the same gospel values of justice, compassion and love of neighbor that inspired this lawsuit. We also stand in solidarity with the Right Rev. Mariann Budde, who urged President Donald Trump to temper his policies toward immigrants and members of the LGBTQ+ community with mercy and respect for human dignity. We fully support the lawsuit's request that the court declare

unconstitutional any policy permitting government agents to carry out immigration enforcement activities at houses of worship when those policies are limited only by agents' subjective common sense.

Elaine S. Wilson, Silver Spring
Steve Chase, Washington

The writers are clerks of Friends Meeting of Washington.

We'll need a new plan

Every day, teachers make sure their classroom doors are locked and that students know the plan in the event of a shooter. We practice lockdown drills. We remind the kids to help barricade the door and pick up anything nearby in case they need to throw it at someone who would enter the room with a gun. We are as prepared to confront an armed intruder as we can be.

But it has never crossed my mind, until now, that the intruder entering my classroom with a gun could be a person authorized to do so by the federal government.

We are going to need a new plan.

Eileen McClure Nelson, Burke

You got a warrant?

President Donald Trump and White House border czar Tom Homan are targeting undocumented immigrants in schools and churches. But there's a

Post

NEWS

EDITORIAL AND OPINION

OFFICERS

IANNA MAYER-JON
 WASHINGTON

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THE WASHINGTON POST • TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025

OPINION

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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2025_02_26 Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Witmer

Position: FAV



via electronic submission

March 4, 2025

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

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

The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

The Young Center serves as the federally appointed independent Child Advocate, akin to *best interests* guardian ad litem, for trafficking victims and other vulnerable unaccompanied children in government custody, as authorized by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA).¹ Since 2004, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has appointed Young Center Child Advocates for thousands of unaccompanied children in ORR custody.

The role of the Child Advocate is to advocate for the best interests of the child. A child's best interests are determined by considering the child's safety, expressed wishes, right to family integrity, liberty, developmental needs, and identity. Our Child Advocate Program accompanies children held in ORR facilities, including facilities in Maryland, listens to them and their families, and advocates for their release to their families and communities, with the supports and services they need to thrive. The Young Center Policy Program complements the direct accompaniment work of its Child Advocate Program by advocating for policies that support and protect unaccompanied youth and their families. We are driven by the belief that all children should be safe and protected, regardless of immigration status.

In Fiscal Year 2024, 3,652 unaccompanied children were released from ORR custody to families and communities in Maryland. The year before that, Maryland received 4,950 unaccompanied children. These children and young people, including those whom the Young Center works with directly in Maryland communities, thrive when they can be active, fully integrated members of the community, and access education, health care, religious services, and legal representation.

[Since 1993](#), federal policy has limited immigration enforcement activities in sensitive locations—such as childcare centers, schools, hospitals, and places of worship—to prevent intimidation and ensure access to essential services. The federal government's [revocation of](#)

¹ William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1232(c)(6)(A) (hereafter TVPRA). The TVPRA defines unaccompanied child as, 'a person who is under 18 years of age; has no lawful immigration status in the United States; and has no parent or legal guardian in the United States, or no parent or legal guardian available to provide care and physical custody.'

[these protections](#) has left immigrant families vulnerable to enforcement actions in spaces where they should feel safe. States must step up to protect their residents.

In our work at the Young Center, we see firsthand how the changes to the federal protected areas policy have already created an environment of fear and uncertainty, discouraging individuals and families with children from seeking medical care and nutrition assistance, attending childcare and school, or attending court dates. This experience is backed up by [numerous studies which](#) demonstrate the connection of both the threat of immigration enforcement as well as the detention and deportation of a family member to adverse mental health, behavioral problems, and health issues for immigrant children and families. Moreover, when immigrant families are too afraid to access community programs and services, [the entire community suffers](#). As a result of increased immigration enforcement in areas previously considered protected areas, the well-being of our children and communities are at risk.

This bill is an opportunity for Maryland legislators to proactively safeguard the well-being of all children residing in the state. The Young Center stands with immigrant children and families and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Families and individuals must be able to obtain food to nourish their families, drop off their children to school or childcare, and worship without the threat of detention.
2. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant families and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.
3. **Safeguard Children's Well-Being:** Immigration enforcement conducted in places that are meant to provide children with a sense of safety and security can traumatize children. Children deserve to attend childcare programs and school and receive timely, high-quality health care without fear that they will be separated from their loved ones.

We thank you for considering SB 828 and urge the committee to provide a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights



Elizabeth Witmer, Policy Program Coordinator
ewitmer@theyoungcenter.org

CentroSOL__SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Ellen Molino

Position: FAV



Center for Salud/Health and Opportunity for Latinos
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Center for Child and Community Health Research
Mason F. Lord Bldg, Center Tower Suite 4200
5200 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore MD 21224
www.jhcentrosol.org | 410.550.1129 | centrosol@jhmi.edu

SB 828

Favorable

TO: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Centro SOL

DATE: February 20, 2025

Centro SOL supports HB1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Centro SOL is pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

Centro SOL (Center for Health and Opportunity for Latinos at Johns Hopkins) is committed to promoting equity in health and providing high quality care to all of our patients including the large and growing Latino population in the State of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1006. Note: This testimony does not necessarily represent the views of Johns Hopkins University.

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.

With the possibility of ICE operations in medical facilities, including Johns Hopkins, many Latino immigrants in Baltimore are now apprehensive about seeking necessary medical care. This fear is particularly acute among undocumented individuals who worry that visiting a hospital or clinic could result in detention or deportation. Consequently, health issues may go untreated, posing risks not only to individuals but also to public health at large.

The presence of ICE agents in or near schools has led to increased anxiety among students and parents in Baltimore City. Reports indicate that some parents are so fearful that they have



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provided copies of their children's legal documents directly to teachers to preempt potential issues and many families are not sending their children to school. This climate of fear will result in decreased school attendance and hinder students' ability to focus on their education. Educators have expressed concerns, noting that it's challenging to teach students who are preoccupied with concerns about their safety and that of their families.

Historically, places of worship have served as sanctuaries for immigrants, but the fear of ICE has eroded this trust and sense of refuge. Centro SOL holds several of its community programs within local churches in Baltimore City. The potential for ICE enforcement actions in these spaces has caused families to reconsider participating in activities that will improve their physical and mental health.

Overall, the increased ICE presence in previously protected areas has instilled a pervasive sense of fear among Latino immigrants in Baltimore, adversely affecting their health, education, legal engagement, and community support systems.

Centro SOL stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

Centro SOL **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

Signatures:

Monica Guerrero Vazquez, MS, MPH
Executive Director, Centro SOL

Sarah Polk, MD, ScM
Co-Director, Centro SOL
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins
University School of Medicine



Center for Salud/Health and Opportunity for Latinos
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Center for Child and Community Health Research
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Rheanna Platt MD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University/Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

Rachel Aylor

Executive Director, National Alliance for Hispanic Families

C. Nicholas Cuneo, MD, MPH

Medical Director, HEAL Refugee Health & Asylum Collaborative

Ellen Molino, MBA

Research Program Manager, Centro SOL

Mauricio Torres-Martinez, MD

SB828_MOST_FAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Ellie Mitchell

Position: FAV



SB828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025
Position: Favorable

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST serves as the backbone organization for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools. The Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, founded in 2016, advocates for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland.

MOST and MD4CS are pleased to support SB 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. The upheaval of the long-term precedent to limit Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in places of worship, hospitals, courthouses, and schools has led to upheaval and fear for families and children in Maryland.

We have heard directly from afterschool program providers that students are afraid to attend school, stay after school to participate in enrichment programming, and attend programs at community centers due to the risks. Keeping children from receiving educational services provides no benefit to the state. The uncertainty, absences from school, and inability to access critical services are a pernicious kind of trauma that will inflict lasting wounds on individuals and communities.

Maryland has the opportunity to lead the way in exerting states' rights to set policies to protect their residents. SB 828 asks the Attorney General to provide policies and guidance that protect people's rights to the full extent state and federal law allows - a balanced and thoughtful approach. We applaud Senator Smith for sponsoring the bill and urge the committee to provide a favorable report.

Ellie Mitchell, Director, MOST Network/MD4CS, emitchell@mostnetwork.org

Maryland Out of School Time Network / Maryland Coalition for Community Schools
1500 Union Ave / Suite 2300 / Baltimore MD 21211 / 410 374-7692

www.mostnetwork.org

Testimony SB0828.pdf

Uploaded by: Elvq Joya

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 0828
SB 0828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

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

I am pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 0828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

My name is Elva Joya and I am a first-generation Salvadoran-American. I work for an oncology and hematology clinic that serves a diverse community of people who are affected by cancer and hematology concerns. Its mission is to provide the most advanced cancer care available anywhere in an atmosphere of caring compassion.

Among all of the patients who we serve, we have a population of undocumented patients who receive care by our providers. Some of these patients are self-pay and some of them are a part of the Maryland Breast and Cervical Cancer program. Our undocumented patients should not have to fear coming to the clinic to receive their chemotherapy or hydration treatment to keep them alive because they fear that they will be questioned of their immigration status and be potentially detained if they do not know their rights.

As a daughter of immigrants, this bill particularly interests me because while my parents have taken the steps to be legally protected now, I cannot imagine the stress and torment that mixed status families are experiencing now more than ever, especially in spaces that are supposed to feel safe. No child should have to worry about going to school and fearing that either they will not make it home or that they will not find their parents when they get home. No person should fear seeking medical care or practicing their faith for the same reason.

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.

I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 0828.

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828 Sensitive Locations

Uploaded by: Eric Lopez

Position: FAV



Formerly known as CAIR Coalition

1 North Charles Street
Suite 2305 | Baltimore, MD 21201

www.amicacenter.org

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 4, 2025

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

Amica Center for Immigrant Rights (Amica Center) is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

The Amica Center is a non-profit organization that provides pro bono legal defense services to community members detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Maryland and the DMV area. Our organization has specialized in detained removal defense for the past 25 years and are leaders in creating systemic changes in the immigration system for the benefit of vulnerable non-citizen community members.

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 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.



Formerly known as CAIR Coalition

1 North Charles Street
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www.amicacenter.org

The individuals that we serve would greatly benefit from this bill. It would return to them a sense of safety and security in their daily lives that is no longer there due to the current administration's targeting of sensitive locations. No one should be whisked away by ICE simply by trying to access public institutions such as hospitals and schools or places of worship.

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, the Amica Center **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

Sincerely,

Eric Lopez
Deputy Program Director
Amica Center for Immigrant Rights
1 N. Charles St., Suite 2305
Baltimore, MD 21201

SB 828 Sensitive Locations JPR EES v.1.pdf

Uploaded by: Eric Sterling

Position: FAV

STATEMENT OF
Eric E. Sterling, J.D.¹
SUBMITTED TO
THE MARYLAND SENATE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS
HON. WILLIAM C. SMITH, JR., CHAIR
HON. JEFF WALDSTREICHER, VICE CHAIR
MARCH 4, 2025

IN FAVOR OF
SB828 -- Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Distinguished Senators, I support SB828 and urge you to give this urgently need legislation a favorable report. I heartily commend Chair Smith and Delegate Wilkins for their leadership in developing this urgently needed legislation.

For decades, the explicit policy of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has been to not conduct immigration enforcement raids or arrests at protected or sensitive locations, such as places of worship. Upon the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that it would step up immigration enforcement and that it would consider tracking down persons who may be suspected of being in violation of U.S. immigration laws at houses of worship, schools or other places. On January 21, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (the Department) announced that it was revoking the established protected location policy and would rely upon immigration enforcement agents to rely upon their “common sense” and could go into any place where “criminal aliens” could “hide.”

My faith community, the Bethesda Friends Meeting, is part of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) (BYM). On January 27, 2025, BYM joined other Friends organizations and other faith communities to [sue the Department in U.S. District Court for Maryland](#) (Civil Action No. 25-0243-TDC) to enjoin the Department from carrying out the new policy that would no longer recognize the historically protected places. The policy said,

“Criminals will no longer be able to hide in America’s schools and churches to avoid arrest. The Trump Administration will not tie the hands of our brave law enforcement, and instead trusts them to use common sense.”

We have had members of Quaker Meetings for Worship (what our congregations call themselves) speculate about the potential for ICE agents to enter or lie in wait to apprehend

persons coming to worship with us. Other faith communities joined this lawsuit with similar concerns.

On February 24, 2025, U.S. District Judge Theodore D. Chuang issued [a 59-page memorandum opinion](#) granting a preliminary injunction against the Department to stop it from terminating its long-standing protected location policy.

In the face of the new Department policy, and the history of protecting sensitive locations from immigration enforcement, this legislation is most timely. The bill directs Maryland’s Attorney General to develop guidelines “to limit immigration enforcement at sensitive locations to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law.” The legislation very capably defines “sensitive location” to include places of worship, schools, medical facilities, child care facilities and playgrounds, places that provide social services such as drug treatment facilities, places where disaster or emergency response relief and services are provided, etc.

I am joining today with Quaker Voice of Maryland in supporting SB828.

I urge a favorable report.

¹ Eric E. Sterling is a member of the Ministry and Worship Committee of Bethesda Friends Meeting, Bethesda, MD. He testifying on his own behalf. He was Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation (1989-2020). He has lived in Maryland 32 years and the 18th legislative district over 27 years. From 1979 to 1989 he was Assistant Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary responsible for many criminal justice issues. From 2013 to 2017, on the appointment of Gov. Martin O’Malley, he served on the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission and chaired its Policy Committee. From 2022 to 2024, he was Chair the Montgomery County Advisory Commission on Policing. He received a B.A. from Haverford College in 1973, and a J.D. from Villanova University Law School in 1976.

SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Palmisano

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of 12. **I am testifying in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

Sincerely,
Erica Palmisano
5580 Vantage Point Rd, Apt 5, Columbia, MD 21044
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

Nycole - Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828_HB 1006.p

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FAV

Bill: SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

Position: Support (FAV)

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Fatima Nycole Hidalgo, Medical Student

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

My name is Fatima Nycole Hidalgo, and I am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

I immigrated to the US from Ecuador when I was 6 years old and have called Maryland home ever since. I am now a third-year medical student at the University of Maryland School of Medicine where I have the privilege to serve Baltimore's diverse patient population. Through both my personal and healthcare experiences, I have witnessed the emotional and physical consequences limited healthcare access has on my Latinx community.

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 considered sanctuaries. This policy change creates an environment of fear and uncertainty, discouraging individuals from seeking medical care, pursuing education, or accessing legal resources. As a result, our communities, public health, and overall safety are at risk.

I was fortunate to grow up in Silver Spring, a diverse community where I formed friendships with classmates and neighbors who were undocumented immigrants. These hard-working individuals were the heart of our community. They were students who took AP classes in a language they learned years prior, and parents who worked laborious jobs building roads in our city while contributing taxes themselves. My school's diversity fostered a strong sense of humanism in our student body that encouraged growth, compassion, and ambition. In these classrooms, I found the encouragement and support to pursue my dream of becoming a physician, knowing that my documentation status would never be questioned.

Stripping schools of their protection from ICE establishes a hostile environment that gives students, undocumented or not, yet another reason to fear for their safety. A system that is meant to keep children safe and foster opportunity should not become a source of fear and betrayal.

Throughout my healthcare experience, I have also witnessed how ICE can delay necessary medical care. In the emergency room, I treated a construction worker who came in with a painful foot rash after stepping on a nail at work. He admitted that he continued to work through the pain because he feared being asked for “papers” at the hospital. I assured him that this was a protected space, and he let out a sigh of relief. But by then, this minor wound progressed to a severe infection requiring an amputation. When he heard the news, he desperately asked, “how am I supposed to support my family?” It was disheartening to see that his fear of ICE outweighed his physical pain, ultimately costing him his quality of life and livelihood. No one should have to choose between seeking essential medical care or being separated from their family.

As a future physician in Maryland, I can attest that this legislation is essential. It upholds the values of equity and compassion that define the medical profession. When I took the Hippocratic Oath, I vowed to respect human life and do no harm. Allowing ICE to enter hospitals would be a violation of these core ethical principles.

I believe that SB 828/HB 1006 aligns Maryland with its values of protecting life and treating all people with dignity, respect, and care. For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

Martha - Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828_HB 1006.pd

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

Martha Dominguez Luya, LMSW, is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

I am a Mental Health Therapist at a community school in Prince George's County, where I primarily work with immigrant communities. I am deeply passionate about the well-being of my students, staff, and their families, and I am dedicated to supporting their mental health needs in every way I can. This commitment to our community is why I strongly support the bill to protect sensitive locations from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions.

Our school serves a high population of immigrant families, many of whom are navigating the complexities of living in a new country. In addition to the trauma these families have experienced before, during, and after their journey to the United States, they now face the constant fear of being targeted by ICE. As a mental health provider, I work tirelessly to ensure that our students and their families have the resources and support they need to thrive. My mission is to create a safe, welcoming environment where all students feel secure enough to focus on their education and mental well-being. However, this mission has become increasingly challenging and limited due to recent executive orders regarding ICE.

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 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.

In our school, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of this uncertainty. Parents have expressed fears about attending parent-teacher conferences or taking their children to school because they worry that ICE might be waiting outside. We have also seen a decrease in attendance among our student body. Additionally, students have come to my office with heightened anxiety about their

safety at school due to the possibility of ICE arriving. This fear creates a barrier to their education, mental health, and sense of stability. It is difficult for children to focus on learning when they fear for the safety of their families and themselves.

Martha Dominguez Luya, LMSW, stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

Martha Dominguez Luya **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.**

Progressive MD_FAV_SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FAV



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 6988, Largo MD 20774

ProgressiveMaryland.org

Info@progressivemaryland.org

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

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Erica Puentes, Progressive Maryland Legislative Coordinator on behalf of Progressive Maryland

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

Progressive Maryland is pleased to offer a **favorable testimony** in **strong support** of **SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

Progressive Maryland is a member based organization led by and focused on working class, Black, and brown communities. Our grassroots advocacy focuses include racial justice and economic justice with the aim of building a more just and equitable Maryland. We have over 125,000 members and supporters across the state, with significant bases in Baltimore City, Prince George's, Montgomery, Frederick, Harford counties, and the Eastern Shore.

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.

Progressive Maryland stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

Progressive Maryland **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

Solidaridad Action Committee_FAV_SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FAV

Solidaridad Action Committee

Of the Gamma Alpha Chapter of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporada

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

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

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

The Solidaridad Action Committee (SAC) of the Gamma Alpha Chapter (GA) of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporada (SIA) is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**. SAC is composed of sisters of SIA, a Latina based but not Latina exclusive sorority with a large membership base throughout the state of Maryland. Our committee and organization represents many women including undergraduates currently studying at the University Maryland, College Park, Towson University, Johns Hopkins University, McDaniel College and alumni who are educators, faith leaders, and medical professionals.

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.

SAC stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

The Solidaridad Action Committee of SIA's GA **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

Testimony #1 - Cabeza.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

I, Katusca Cabeza, am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

I am an immigrant and sub-director of youth at my local church. Since I arrived in this country, I have worked hard to do everything legally and build a life with stability and security. But recently, with the new administration, I have felt much uncertainty. Programs for protection and legal support that provide peace of mind to those who follow the rules and seek stability here have been eliminated.

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.

I remember that in the first days after these changes, I felt afraid to go to the hospital. Not because I had done anything wrong, but because the news is often unclear and only manages to confuse and create more fear. And even though my status hadn't changed, even though everything was fine with me, I couldn't help but wonder if, in some way, I was at risk. Even going to church, where I have always felt at peace, became a dilemma. I would sit in the temple, trying to focus on the message, but in the back of my mind was the feeling that I might be exposed. There were many immigrants around me, and although everything seemed normal, I couldn't stop thinking: "What if the police suddenly show up?" I shouldn't feel fear in a place like that. No one should!

That is why I support the approval of the Sensitive Locations Protection Act. Schools, hospitals, courthouses, and churches should be safe spaces for everyone. It is not fair to live with the fear that these places could become zones of persecution when they should be

refuges of help, justice, and hope.

I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

Testimony #2 - WSS.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

The Washington Spencerville Spanish Church of Seventh-day Adventist is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

The Seventh Day Adventist Church is a worldwide Christian organization. One of our 28 fundamental beliefs as a church is Unity In the Body of Christ. We believe that we are all to be united; race, culture, and nationality distinctions must NOT be divisive. As a church with a majority of Latino/Hispanic members we are against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) coming into places that our community feels safe and welcome in. That being places of worship, schools, and healthcare facilities.

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.

The Washington Spencerville Spanish Church supports our Latino community and we will advocate for their rights. Our communities are greatly affected when they live in fear, and that is something we must always protect. Our mission as a community of faith is always to help, love, and care for those around us. We see the impact we make in our community when we are united. Bringing legal status into sensitive locations is a path for segregation, which is something we are completely against.

In this last month, we have seen how immigrants live in fear, and because of this, they isolate themselves. Our church is suffering greatly because of this new policy. Our members live in fear that Immigration and Customs Enforcement will come and take them away. The mothers and fathers at our church make plans if, in any case, they get taken away from their children. Our church lives in fear that at every service, ICE will barge in and create

unwanted chaos. Our most faithful members look behind their backs, waiting for something to happen; even the children live in fear. The most difficult challenges our church faces are due to the fear our congregation is living through. Which again is something we don't want. We plead that something is done so our community feels safe and loved like before. As a church, we believe that going to places of worship, schools, and healthcare facilities is a right. In no way should ICE ever be in the places where people are supposed to feel safe. Legal status should not be the reason why we treat another person differently and, in many cases, inhumane. It should be the reason to help someone in need and offer assurance that everything will be okay. Let's make a difference and help these communities. They need us now more than ever.

The Washington Spencerville Spanish Church stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

The Washington Spencerville Spanish Church of Seventh-day Adventist urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

Testimony #3 - Medrano.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

I, Katya Medrano, am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

I am the Youth Director of my local church. Additionally, I serve as a Youth Area Coordinator for my church conference, which is made up of sister churches in the area that my local church is a part of. This means that I also work closely with youth across various congregations to foster leadership, community service, and spiritual growth.

Our church is a place of worship and a sanctuary for youth and their families — a safe space where they gather for mentorship, education, and emotional support. Many of the young people I work with come from immigrant families who contribute positively to our community but live with the constant fear of sudden enforcement actions in places where they should feel secure.

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.

I have witnessed firsthand the distress this has caused. Some youth have expressed anxiety about attending church events or participating in community programs, fearing that their family members might be at risk. This fear undermines our mission to provide an environment of growth, hope, and community trust. No one should have to choose between accessing essential services and protecting their family from separation.

I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

Testimony #4 - Cruz.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

I, Milena Cruz, am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

My local church, where I congregate, has always been a safe space for my brothers and sisters. It is more than just a place of worship; it is a family and a home. I have been part of this community since birth, and as I've grown, I have witnessed many changes in the world around me. I am currently an associate youth coordinator and work with the youth of this church every weekend.

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 a citizen of this country, I should not have to fear going into my place of worship and seeing those who are like family getting detained. I have the right to freedom of religion, like any other person who enters this country. And I truly believe that should be enough to ensure my safety in a place of worship. Sacred spaces like my church carry a deep sense of respect that everyone should honor, regardless of their personal beliefs. No one should have to witness others being forcibly removed or disrupted during such meaningful and spiritual moments. A place of worship is meant to be peaceful, a refuge from the chaos of the outside world. No one should experience discomfort, fear, or separation in a space that exists to bring people together.

I believe it is both unfair and inhumane to take actions that disrupt a person's life in such an important setting. It is like tearing someone away from their existence in front of an entire community. No one is perfect, but some things should never happen. That is my firm belief.

If I were ever to witness such an act in my church, it would profoundly affect me emotionally. Every individual matters to someone, every person is essential in some way. Seeing someone taken away from a place of peace and belonging would be heartbreaking for me and others in my church.

I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

Yakie Palma Testimony Draft.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Puentes

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

Yakie Palma is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

As a teacher in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), I am committed to creating a safe, supportive environment for all students, especially immigrants and refugees. PGCPS provides vital resources like language support, mental health services, and family engagement to help these students thrive. Having taught resilient students from Central America and the Middle East, I see firsthand their strength and determination despite immense challenges. As the child of immigrant parents, I know the importance of a secure, welcoming school. Students cannot succeed if they do not feel safe. That is why I advocate for protecting schools as safe havens, ensuring every child can learn without fear.

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.

Many of my students are from immigrant and refugee families who have fled violence, war, and poverty. For them, schools are safe havens, providing stability and essential resources. Immigration enforcement in sensitive locations like schools would create fear, disrupt learning, and keep families from accessing critical support. Parents may avoid schools, hospitals, or courthouses, deepening their hardship. No child should have to choose between education and family safety. Protecting these spaces ensures students can learn and thrive without fear.

As a teacher in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), I serve immigrant and refugee

students who rely on schools as safe havens. ICE enforcement in or near schools would create fear, disrupt learning, and prevent families from accessing vital resources like counseling, meals, and legal support. Many of my students have fled war, violence, and poverty—school is their one place of stability. If families fear deportation, attendance will drop, mental health will suffer, and engagement will decline, directly undermining PGCPs's mission of equitable education. Schools must remain safe spaces where all students can learn without fear.

Yakie Palma stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

Yakie Palma **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.**

Afghans who helped the U.S. in dangerous limbo_ NP

Uploaded by: Erinn Camp Mansour

Position: FAV

[WHYY NEWS](#)
[LIVE and Now](#)
[PLAYLIST](#)



DONATE

NATIONAL

Afghans who helped the U.S. are in dangerous limbo after Trump's order on refugees

JANUARY 27, 2025 · 3:45 PM ET

By Diaa Hadid, Juliana Kim

[4-Minute Listen](#)

[PLAYLIST](#)

[TRANSCRIPT](#)



A U.S. Air Force captain goes over the day's mission route map with an Afghan National Army officer with assistance from an Afghan interpreter (left), before the U.S.-Afghan convoy sets off in Ghazni, Afghanistan, on March 16, 2009.

Robert Nickelsberg/Getty Images Europe

Surayya's flight to the United States was already booked when President Trump ordered a pause on the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. Not long after, her flight was canceled and her stomach dropped.

"I don't know what to do," she said. "If I go back to Afghanistan, I will be prosecuted or even be killed by the Taliban."

Surayya, who asked NPR not to use her full name for safety reasons, used to work on women's rights projects with the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. But when the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, Surayya and her children fled to neighboring Pakistan. There, she applied for resettlement in the U.S. and was approved.

Sponsor Message



NATIONAL

Trump's immigration orders are a blueprint for sweeping policy changes

Now, Surayya's future and safety look uncertain, along with tens of thousands of other Afghans who risked their lives working for the U.S. government or military.

During Trump's first day in office, the president issued an executive order to pause refugee applications and travel plans, citing concerns over the country's capacity to absorb large numbers of refugees.

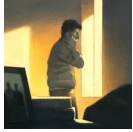
It remains unclear how long the suspension will last, but the order does allow the secretary of state and the secretary of homeland security to admit refugees on a "case-by-case basis." The U.S. State Department did not respond to NPR's request for comment.

Longstanding pathways for Afghan allies hang in the balance

The U.S. is home to over 200,000 Afghans who arrived as refugees, according to Shawn VanDiver, a military veteran and the president of #AfghanEvac, a nonprofit that helps people from Afghanistan resettle in America.

Around the world, over 40,000 Afghans are still actively pursuing resettlement in the U.S., with more than 10,000 approved to relocate by the U.S. government.

Many of those affected by the pause on the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) are Afghan lawyers and judges who put Taliban fighters behind bars, as well as members of the Afghan military who trained and fought alongside American troops. The families of about 200 active duty U.S. service members are also being impacted, VanDiver said.

**WORLD****Reporters' notebook: revisiting Afghan refugees starting anew in the U.S.**

"We made a promise to our Afghan allies, and fulfilling that promise is not just about policy – it's about honor and integrity," he added.

USRAP is one of the pathways for Afghans who risked their lives to support U.S. missions. The other is called the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV), specifically designed for Afghan interpreters, drivers and other contractors who worked directly with American forces.

The SIV program is in jeopardy too, following a separate executive order suspending foreign aid, including funding for refugee resettlement agencies. The order similarly stalls relocation flights, as well as hinders organizations from processing SIV cases and providing critical travel loans, according to VanDiver.

Sponsor Message

"This isn't just a humanitarian issue – it's an economic one. The ripple effects will be felt across the U.S. as resettlement agencies close their doors and jobs are lost," he said.

"He is unfortunately putting our lives in grave danger"

Surayya said she was supposed to be evacuated to the U.S. after the Taliban seized Kabul. But like thousands of others, she was not able to get on a plane during America's chaotic retreat from Afghanistan in 2021.

The exit happened during former President Biden's time in office, but it was set in motion by the first Trump administration, which signed a deal with the Taliban in 2020 to withdraw after two decades in the country.



INVESTIGATIONS

Three years after the U.S. withdrawal, former Afghan forces are hunted by the Taliban

While Surayya currently resides in Pakistan, it is not a permanent solution. Over the years, Pakistan has deported hundreds of thousands of Afghans. Without a chance to move to the U.S., Surayya does not know where else to go.

"Police of Pakistan are searching for Afghans," she said. "I am not safe here. And if I go back to Afghanistan, my life is not safe, my kids' life is not safe."

Many Afghans who worked for the U.S. but were unable to escape Afghanistan now live in hiding from the Taliban, like Roshangar, who asked NPR not to include his full name because he's been on the run.

Roshangar said he used to work alongside American pilots, helping review and approve airstrikes against Taliban fighters. He was on the last step of his application before the refugee program was suspended. Roshangar said he feels that the Trump administration turned its back to America's Afghan allies.

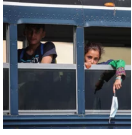
"He is unfortunately putting our lives in grave danger," he said.

Veterans rally behind Afghan allies, urging the Trump administration to reverse course

For Army veteran Mark Kirkendall, the issue is deeply personal. "I called these Afghan engineers I worked with my adopted sons," he said. "That's how close we are."

Sponsor Message

Kirkendall was deployed to Afghanistan over a decade ago. Since then, he kept in regular contact with the engineers he worked with, helping many of them resettle to the U.S.



INVESTIGATIONS

What It's Like Inside The U.S. Processing Center Welcoming Thousands Of Afghans

Kirkendall, who voted for Trump, is hoping the president will make an exemption for Afghan allies. With three engineers still in Afghanistan — and having lost two to the Taliban — Kirkendall said he sees it as a matter of life or death.

"U.S policy has always been to take care of our allies, and we're not doing a good job of that; we're failing the Afghan people," he said.

To Army veteran Alex Waller, who was deployed to Afghanistan in 2017, he believes the U.S. has a moral responsibility to protect those who risked their lives to serve alongside American troops.

"By and large, they are productive members of society that want to be here, that want to make good life for themselves, and who are — in my opinion — they're outstanding people," he said.

For the past two years, Waller and other veterans have been working with Task Force Argo, a volunteer group dedicated to helping Afghan allies evacuate, to bring to the U.S. a former member of the Afghan military who is currently in Turkey.

Waller said the soldier was known for participating in dozens of raids against the Taliban and helping evacuate a wounded American. Since Waller learned that USRAP was paused, he couldn't help but wish he had acted more quickly.

"We should not assume that the countries that they are hiding in will continue to, like, let them hang around out of the kindness of their hearts or something," he said.

Last week, hundreds of veterans signed an open letter to the Trump administration organized by #AfghanEvac, urging that Afghans who put themselves in harm's way working for the U.S. should be exempt from the executive order blocking refugee pathways. They argued that failing to do so would jeopardize America's credibility with potential allies in future conflicts:

Sponsor Message

SB828_ECM Testimony_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Erinn Camp Mansour

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

When I was 3 years old a family of 7 Vietnamese refugees came to live with me and my parents in our 3-bedroom, one-bathroom house in Silver Spring. They escaped Vietnam two weeks before the fall of Saigon in 1975, and some of their extended family died in the boats trying to escape. A local church sponsored them, and they lived with us until they found a more permanent home. Their youngest daughter and I both attended Johns Hopkins University, and she became a doctor here in Maryland. Over the years, I've loved seeing pictures of her beautiful family, as spouses, children, and grandchildren have been added.

Now, I am part of an interfaith refugee ministry that helps resettled Afghan refugee families, friends who worked with the Americans and had to flee when U.S. forces left Afghanistan in 2021. Some of our families have adult children, husbands, fathers, and other family and friends who are still trapped there, or in neighboring countries. Changing policies here in the U.S. are making our new neighbors frightened for their families, many of whom remain in dangerous situations in or near their home country. Our interfaith refugee support volunteers are also afraid for them. Now that federal immigration policies have changed, and are changing almost daily, we are worried that our friends who made it here, to safety, will lose their legal immigration status and be ordered to go back. They could become undocumented immigrants.

Our friends arrived with various forms of protective legal approvals and documentation from our government. Because many of them worked with the Americans in Afghanistan, they were threatened and harrassed by local authorities when we left. America promised to accept them. We promised they would be safe here, but it is unclear whether they will be allowed to stay or not. Military veterans who served in Afghanistan know better than most the spectrum of Afghan people who partnered with us there, including drivers, contractors, translators, lawyers, judges, officials, soldiers, teachers, doctors, and so many others. According to Shawn VanDiver, a military veteran and the president of #AfghanEvac, a nonprofit that helps people from Afghanistan resettle in America: "We made a promise to our Afghan allies, and fulfilling that promise is not just about policy — it's about honor and integrity."

Immigrants, those with current valid immigration documentation, and those without, deserve our protection. For many of us, it's a matter of faith and integrity. We simply don't turn away friends in need. Our faith communities are ready to help, but we need our state legislators to help us. Please protect sensitive locations, including our places of worship, and issue a FAVORABLE report for SB828. Thank you for your consideration of this important and emergency bill.

Sincerely,
Erinn Camp Mansour, MPP UMD
Christ Church Interfaith Refugee Ministry

SB828_Protecting Sensitive Locations_PFM_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Erinn Camp Mansour

Position: FAV

Patapsco Friends Meeting (Quakers)
SUPPORT: [SB828](#) ([HB1006](#)) *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act*
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

March 4, 2025

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is a community of faith based on an experience of a transforming power named many ways: the Inner Light, the Spirit of Christ, the Guide, the Living God, the Divine Presence. Quakers hold as the basis of this faith the belief that God endows each human being with a measure of the Divine Spirit. Quakerism is a religious fellowship based on common religious ideals and experiences.

Patapsco Friends Meeting is a part of a larger regional community of Quakers called Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM.) Although we are without a binding creed, our beliefs are based on Judeo-Christian heritage and adherence to the Inner Light, Spirit of Christ, and that of God in everyone. Quaker experiences of the Divine affect what we do in our personal lives, what we believe and how we work for changes in the wider world. “Testimonies” are what Quakers call the ways we live and act based on our beliefs. As Friends seek truth, peace, and harmony in the Light of that Spirit, our testimonies emerge. The immanence of God implies that all persons are children of the Divine and brothers and sisters of one another. We also wish to affirm our belief that Quakerism is God’s “big tent,” politically. We welcome people with all sorts of political beliefs — Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, liberals, socialists, Libertarians, and Independents—to our community.

On January 27, 2025, a coalition of Quaker Meetings filed suit in a Maryland federal court to block a recent change in federal policy that now allows federal immigration enforcement officials to enter houses of worship, and other sensitive locations, for enforcement purposes. One of the plaintiffs in the suit is *BYM*: “Our religious beliefs call us to build relationships across geographical and theological lines. Our membership in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, DC, and the greater mid-Atlantic region includes immigrant Friends. The very threat of government officials wearing ICE-emblazoned jackets outside of our religious service will have a significant impact on our communities and ability to practice our faith. We remain committed to our religious command and will use the tools available to defend our membership and faith.”

On February 24, 2025, the U.S. District Court of Maryland issued an order blocking the Trump administration’s policy that enables immigration officials to enter houses of worship indiscriminately to conduct immigration enforcement operations. The order, which outlines the ways in which the Trump administration policy is likely to violate religious freedom and expression rights, applies only to the Plaintiffs’ houses of worship, not all.

The filed suit in federal court affirms the importance of state-level advocacy in Maryland to support passing the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (SB828/HB1006) and other immigrant protections, during the 2025 General Assembly. No one should hesitate to seek life-saving care, attend worship services, or attend school due to fear of immigration enforcement. This bill directs the Attorney General, in consultation with certain stakeholders, to develop guidelines to assist public schools, hospitals, and courthouses to draft policies that limit civil immigration enforcement activities on their premises in order to ensure these facilities remain safe and accessible to all. It authorizes public schools, hospitals, and courthouses to establish and publish policies that limit immigration enforcement on their premises to the fullest extent possible.

The spiritual and social testimonies of Quakers, and statements of our Friends, lead us to support the proposed emergency legislation to protect our immigrant friends. We urge you to issue a FAVORABLE report for SB828.

Your Friends,
Eileen and Richard Stanzione, Co-Clerks
Patapsco Friends Meeting

SB 828 - Sensitive Locations - ACLU Testimony (Feb

Uploaded by: Frank Patinella

Position: FAV



Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

March 4, 2025

FAVORABLE

FRANK PATINELLA
SENIOR POLICY ADVOCATE

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ANDREW FREEMAN
GENERAL COUNSEL

The ACLU of Maryland supports SB 828, which seeks to require that the Maryland Attorney General, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, develop guidelines to assist private entities and government officials operating sensitive locations to develop policies that would limit federal immigrant enforcement activities on their premises. The bill does not require any entity or official to create guidelines or restrict immigration enforcement at sensitive locations.

SB 828 identifies “sensitive locations” as places where people and families access necessary and deeply personal services such as public schools, daycare, medical and mental healthcare facilities, courthouses, places of worship, social services, and other places Maryland’s Attorney General may designate. In light of new federal immigration enforcement initiatives, it is critical that Maryland pass this measure so that state and local government officials and private sector providers can develop protective policies – within their own authority and the limits of federal and state law – to ensure people and families may access services without the threat of ICE arrests.

Immigration enforcement at sensitive locations is a waste of resources, and communities are safer when everyone has access to necessary care and services.

Access to education, freedom to worship, medical appointments, and help getting food are examples of services that meet personal wellness needs and promote public safety. Allowing federal immigration enforcement unwarranted access to these places will stoke fear in everyone who uses these spaces – even those with no immigration concerns. Worse still, people with immigration concerns or who are part of mixed status families may avoid prayer, therapy, food pantries, health treatments, or defer other needs to avoid the risk of enforcement. For all these communities, wellness will suffer and these sensitive locations become less safe. While the impact will be more brutal for people, access to sensitive locations is not an effective tool or strategy toward immigration enforcement. We should not

be wasting taxpayer dollars on state and local law enforcement staking out our schools, healthcare centers, and other social services. Our communities are safer when everyone can access necessary care and help.

In many communities, especially in isolated and underserved areas, schools serve as a core hub where children learn and socialize with their friends, and where families can access a myriad of supports and community activities. Schools are places where people should feel welcome and safe, and where the well-being of children is paramount. Parents should not fear taking their children to school, and children should be able to focus on learning without the looming threat of immigration police. Since the White House lifted restrictions constraining immigration enforcement access to schools, many children and families in Maryland are terrified and anxious. Some parents are choosing to keep their children home. This kind of hostile environment creates fear and negatively impacts all children in the school.

Further, in *Plyler v. Doe*, the Supreme Court ruled that all children, regardless of their immigration status, have the right to attend public schools.¹ Denying students an education violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. SB 828 will create model guidance that school systems and officials may adopt to ensure they protect the constitutional rights of their students from violation by federal immigration authorities.

Like schools, healthcare providers, such as hospitals, provide an essential service to everyone. We believe healthcare is a basic human right and that providers have an obligation to ensure that people feel welcome and safe in facilities throughout our state. Allowing ICE to conduct their activities in these facilities may deter people from seeking out the treatment they need. The outcome could be serious or even fatal for those with life threatening or terminal illnesses. Further, if people are fearful about seeking care, untreated communicable illnesses can pose a serious health threat to people and our communities throughout Maryland. Keeping ICE from operating in healthcare facilities is in the best interest for all Marylanders.

For courthouses, there is a longstanding common law tradition against civil arrests at courthouses, dating back to 18th Century England, which was extended not just to parties and witnesses in a case, but to all people “necessarily attending” the

¹ *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982).

courts on business, including coming to and returning from the courthouse.² The Supreme Court has explicitly held up the tradition as well.³

The Supreme Court has also upheld the right to access court as a constitutional right rooted in the Fifth Amendment.⁴ The Court went further to explain the administration of justice benefits when people are not afraid to attend court proceedings.⁵ The threat of civil arrests, therefore, interferes with the right to access court, because without necessary parties in attendance, administration of justice is impossible. Please note that the constitutional right to access court applies to noncitizens as well.⁶

Sensitive locations must remain safe and accessible to all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, to ensure we receive the full rights and protections the law affords us, and that our justice system does not further split into separate classes for the powerful and powerless in our state.

The ACLU believes it is the responsibility of the state to ensure both public and private entities operating sensitive locations do not get entangled with federal immigration enforcement, as their obligation is to serve the greater public. To that end, SB 828 is a step in the right direction and we ask for a favorable report on this bill.

² William Blackstone, *Commentaries on the Laws of England* 289 (1769)

³ See *Lamb v. Schmitt*, 283 U.S. 222, 225 (1932) (“witnesses, suitors, and their attorneys, while in attendance in connection with the conduct of one suit are immune from service of process in another.”)

⁴ See e.g. *United States v. Kras*, 409 U.S. 434, 440 (1973).

⁵ *Lamb v. Schmitt*, 283 U.S. 222, 225 (1932) (“As commonly stated and applied, [the privilege] proceeds upon the ground that the due administration of justice requires that a court shall not permit interference with the progress of a cause pending before it, by the service of process in other suits, which would prevent, or the fear of which might tend to discourage, the voluntary attendance of those whose presence is necessary or convenient to the judicial administration in the pending litigation.”)

⁶ *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356 (1886).

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Gabrielle Sanchez

Position: FAV



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,

Marylanders for Food and Farmworker Protection (MFFWP) is a coalition dedicated to advocating for the rights and well-being of essential workers, including migrant farmworkers who play a critical role in feeding our communities but are too often denied fundamental protections. We strongly support SB 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, as it establishes necessary safeguards to ensure that all Marylanders—regardless of immigration status—can access essential services without fear.

For more than a decade, federal policy placed limits on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in sensitive locations—such as hospitals, schools, courthouses, and places of worship—to prevent intimidation and ensure that individuals could seek medical care, pursue education, access legal resources, and engage with law enforcement without fear of deportation. However, as of January 20, 2025, the rollback of these protections has left immigrant communities vulnerable to enforcement actions in spaces where they should feel safe.

This abrupt policy shift has already fostered an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty, deterring individuals from seeking necessary medical attention, enrolling their children in school, reporting crimes, or seeking legal assistance. The chilling effect on these critical services not only harms individuals but also puts public health and community safety at risk. The consequences are significant:

- **Public Health Risks:** Immigrants may avoid hospitals or clinics out of fear of arrest, leading to untreated illnesses, worsening public health, and the spread of preventable diseases.
- **Disruptions in Education:** Parents may fear dropping their children off at school, or students may stop attending altogether if they worry about ICE presence.
- **Reduced Public Safety and Crime Reporting:** When immigrants fear that any interaction with authorities could lead to deportation, they may hesitate to report crimes, making communities less safe.

- **Mistrust of Public Institutions:** If ICE operates in schools, hospitals, and places of worship, immigrants may feel unsafe in spaces that should be welcoming and protective.
- **Economic Consequences:** Fear of being arrested discourages immigrants from participating in public life, leading to decreased shopping, business closures, and economic downturns in affected areas.
- **Children Suffering from Anxiety and Trauma:** When ICE arrests parents at sensitive locations, children are left behind, leading to emotional distress and instability. Incidents like this can have long-term psychological effects on children.
- **Compromised Access to Justice:** If immigrants fear ICE enforcement at courthouses, they may avoid attending court dates, leading to unresolved legal issues and denying them due process.

Everyone deserves the ability to access essential services without the threat of detention or separation from their families. When immigrants feel safe interacting with institutions—whether by reporting crimes, seeking medical care, or enrolling their children in school—our communities are stronger, healthier, and safer. Establishing clear, enforceable protections for sensitive locations is a necessary step to ensure public trust and well-being across Maryland.

For these reasons, MFFWP urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828 to protect Maryland’s immigrant communities and ensure that our state remains a place of safety, dignity, and opportunity for all. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB828 gvb.pdf

Uploaded by: Giuliana Valencia-Banks

Position: FAV

February 28, 2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

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

As a proud Marylander I am pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

As an immigrant, and a former human services practitioner and I have seen first-hand what happens when immigrant community members do not trust sensitive locations. Children miss school, the sick miss doctor's appointments, faith communities are empty. Our state thrives when immigrants thrive and feel included.

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.

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.**

Giuliana Valencia-Banks
1310 Medfield Ave
Baltimore MD 21211

Immigration sensitive spaces SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Gwen DuBois

Position: FAV



Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: **SB828** An Emergency Bill: Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 4, 2025

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility is an organization of over 900 supporters, that was founded by physicians and which strongly supports of **SB828** a bill that will protect immigrants' right to seek healthcare free of fear of deportation.

For the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, the Attorney General will enforce the right of all living in Maryland to be free from the fear that they will be rounded up for their immigration status while they are engaged in activities that are essential to their welfare and to public health including but not limited to : seeking medical care, mental health care, emergency relief care, education at any level, anywhere that children have gathered to play such as playgrounds, or while availing themselves of social services. In addition, there is nothing more fundamental to our freedoms as people living in the United States, than religious gatherings being protected. This emergency bill will allow the Attorney General to develop guidelines that are protective, allowing our immigrant neighbors to be able to attend to their lives free of fear of being separated from their families.

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility supporters who are health care providers know that we cannot take care of our patients if they are afraid to come into our offices or hospital or clinics, if they are afraid to pick up their medicines at the pharmacy, if they are afraid to get important tests and procedures. Delay in care can lead a disease to be more advanced and more difficult to treat. Delay can have an impact on a wide community if it involves infections. It can cause mental as well as physical harm and children are especially vulnerable.¹

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility understands that prevention is the best treatment. A recent report by the Kaiser Family Foundation² reported how the fear of being apprehended, including fear of family separations, resulted in fewer immigrant families seeking

¹ <https://www.healthbeat.org/newyork/2025/01/29/your-local-epidemiologist-ice-raids-effects-on-health/>

² <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/potential-impacts-of-mass-detention-and-deportation-efforts-on-the-health-and-well-being-of-immigrant-families/>

health care and other related services to which they were entitled. This impacted even those with protected legal status and impacted behaviors even after more protective regulations were passed. Allowing our immigrant neighbors to attend to their medical needs and other fundamental activities that keep them healthy of mind as well as of body, will improve the lives of all of us who live in Maryland.

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility urges you to pass SB828 and keep Marylanders of all different immigration statuses healthy and safe.

Gwen L. DuBois MD, MPH
President, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
gdubois@jhsph.edu

SB 828 testimony.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Gwen Stewart

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies

(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

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

Do The Most Good is pleased to offer a **favorable testimony** in **strong support** of **SB 828/ Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

Do the Most Good is a grassroots organization based in Montgomery County, MD with members across Montgomery County. My name is Gwen Stewart and I have been an active member of **DTMG** on the steering committee since 2017. We partner with organizations in political action and civic engagement to further inclusive, progressive values and act with respect and kindness as an all-embracing community, while standing up to hatred and bigotry in every form. We act locally to make our community a more inclusive, safer place and support others dedicated to these goals.

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. In Montgomery County we have a Tuberculosis rate above the national average. We have had cases of multidrug resistant TB in Montgomery County. It is imperative that our immigrant population feel safe and unafraid to seek treatment. Protecting all who live in our community is vital for the wellbeing and health of the entire community.

In 2014 during the Ebola crisis, when I was the Manager of Infection Prevention at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, we worked collaboratively across the state with other health facilities to care for the community. When managing a health crisis in a community, it is vital that all residents have access to treatment for the protection of the whole. Isolating a large portion of our community due to fear and confusion effects the entire population.

Do The Most Good stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

Do The Most Good urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB

828

SB828_FAV_Giuliani.pdf

Uploaded by: Helen Cordero

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1006/SB828

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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

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

Francesca Giuliani, therapist in Howard County is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

Immigrants are at the foundation of America. As a therapist, I have had the privilege of working with immigrant families and their descents. The amount of adversity they face is unacceptable and as human beings they deserve to feel safe in places of community. As human beings, they deserve access to education and life saving care, therefore safety within sensitive locations is pertinent. Safety is at the foundation of our needs as a human being and if one cannot feel safe it is placing one in danger and that is inhumane. That is why this bill matters.

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.

At times, therapy is life saving care and if one does not feel safe enough to enter a health care faculty and get this need met, their life could be lost. This is the same for all hospital settings, medical care saves lives, an immigrant has every right to get that care. ICE entering these safe spaces means more lives lost as that creates fear in those needing treatment and care.

Schools are a safe haven for children and their families. Every child deserves an education, whether and immigrant or not. A child should feel safe in a school setting or a child cannot learn. Safety is needed for a regulated nervous system which is essential for learning. ICE being welcomed in a school setting has potential to cause trauma for children who are only seeking better lives. Crossing this boundary is inappropriate as children need to be protected and shown safety in an educational setting, truthfully, in all settings. Places of worship provide community and do not discriminate. One is there to have connection with

spirituality and this should be a sanctuary, not a place of discomfort and anxiety such as a church would become if ICE is allowed to enter.

Therapist in Howard County stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

SB828_FAV_Lopez.pdf

Uploaded by: Helen Cordero

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

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

Yesenia Lopez is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of HB 1006/SB828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

I am a teacher in Prince George's County Public Schools. Our district houses a diverse immigrant population from Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. Our district has a large number of community schools and these schools provide many benefits to the community, such as health services, after-school tutoring, and food services as well. I grew up in this area with my family, my siblings and I have attended the schools here, and have received these community services in the past. My family has migrated from Mexico for better opportunities and this aided me in my journey to become a high school English teacher. This issue is important to me because I have many family members and numerous students on my roster who would also be affected by SB 828/HB 1006.

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 English teacher, I work with students who come from immigrant families as well as immigrant students themselves. My students have shared their fear of coming home from work and not knowing where their family is or not being able to come up from being detained. A few of my students have disclosed their family's immigration status and have stated that they live in fear of being separated from their parents. If Immigration and Customs Enforcement enters our

schools, students would stop attending school due to fear, and this would affect student attendance rates. I would not be able to teach my subject, I would not be able to assist my students in their journey to graduating high school, and they would not be able to graduate which would harm our community's efforts for improvement.

Yesenia Lopez stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

Yesenia Lopez **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.**

SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Holly Powell

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of **District 46**. **I am testifying in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Holly Powell
2308 Cambridge Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

1

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029_2-policy.pdf.

2

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Protecting Sensitive Locations 28FEB 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Jan Kleinman

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 46. *As a school teacher, I can testify that any distraction in my classroom leads every student to learn less. By protecting schools, you would ensure that every single child learns more than s/he could were an ICE raid be a constant threat. And that includes American born or non-American born children. I am testifying in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.*



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

1

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

2

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Kleinman

250 President ST Unit 508

Baltimore, MD 21202

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB828_Jeffrey Rubin_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Rubin

Position: FAV

March 4, 2025

Jeffrey S. Rubin

Potomac, MD 20854

TESTIMONY ON SB828 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

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

FROM: Jeffrey S. Rubin

My name is Jeffrey Rubin. I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB828, Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

Like many Marylanders, I live in an area that is home to many immigrants. They contribute to our community in many ways through their labor and sharing of culture. 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.

I stand with immigrant communities and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB828.

2025 MASBHC SB 828 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Navabi

Position: FAV



Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

Hearing Date: February 19, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly of School-Based Healthcare strongly supports *Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)*. The bill requires the Attorney General to issue guidance to protect people from immigration enforcement in schools, healthcare settings, and other sensitive locations.

There are almost 90 school-based health centers in underserved communities with a high concentration of poverty in Maryland. We are concerned about the impact of immigration enforcement on our students and their families. We want to ensure that schools feel as safe as possible in this rapidly changing environment. Students may stop learning or even coming to school as immigration enforcement efforts become more aggressive. Maryland’s Attorney General can play an important role in creating safe spaces for all Marylanders.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

2025 MASHN SB 828 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Navabi

Position: FAV



Maryland Association of School Health Nurses



Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

Hearing Date: February 19, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) strongly support *Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations)*. We value the dignity and safety of all of our students and their families. We are concerned about the growing fear among immigrant families about sending their children to school. This legislation could alleviate some of that fear by providing protection from immigrant enforcement in schools, healthcare settings, and other sensitive places. We should be doing everything possible to make students and their families feel safe in this tumultuous environment.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

2025 MCHS SB 828 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Navabi

Position: FAV



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

Hearing Date: February 19, 2025

Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Community Health System strongly 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.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers providing primary, behavioral health, and dental services to underserved communities across Maryland. We serve all individuals, regardless of their ability to pay or immigration status. In the past month, we have seen the impact of fear on the immigrant communities that we serve. People do not want to seek healthcare services, sometimes even in an emergency. As healthcare providers, we need to ensure we are creating the safest environment possible for our patients and their families.

We suggest a clarifying amendment to ensure the bill provides protection at all healthcare locations:

Strike and replace line 21 on page 1 through line 2 on page 2 with:

“a location where healthcare services are provided directly or under the supervision of a healthcare practitioner licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to practice under the Health Occupations Article”

We ask for a favorable report with this clarifying amendment. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

2025 MDAC SB 828 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Navabi

Position: FAV



10015 Old Columbia Road, Suite B-215
Columbia, Maryland 21046
www.mdac.us

Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

Hearing Date: February 19, 2025

Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) strongly 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.

MDAC has strongly supported efforts to ensure that all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, can access needed healthcare services. 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 forgo or delay needed care, their health will be at risk. MDAC supports this legislation because guidance about immigration enforcement in sensitive spaces could mitigate the fear in immigrant communities.

We suggest a clarifying amendment to ensure the bill provides protection at all healthcare locations, including settings where dental services are offered:

Strike and replace line 21 on page 1 through line 2 on page 2 with:

“a location where healthcare services are provided directly or under the supervision of a healthcare practitioner licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to practice under the Health Occupations Article”

We ask for a favorable report with this clarifying amendment. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders

2025 MOTA SB 828 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Navabi

Position: FAV



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.

2025 MOTA SB 828 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Navabi

Position: FAV



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.

2025 Moveable SB 828 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Navabi

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

Hearing Date: March 4, 2025

Position: Support

Moveable Feast supports *Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)*. This bill requires the Attorney General, with stakeholders, to develop guidelines for entities operating at sensitive locations that limit immigration enforcement at those locations to the fullest extent possible, consistent with federal and state law.

Moveable Feast’s mission is to improve the health of Marylanders experiencing food insecurity and chronic illness by preparing and delivering medically tailored meals and providing nutrition education, thereby achieving racial, social, and health equity. Under the bill, Moveable Feast would qualify as a sensitive location, as we distribute food to people in need. We support efforts to shield the important work we do from the threat of a disruptive immigration raid.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

Testimony SUPPORT SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Roman

Position: FAV

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,

I am submitting **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.

President Trump said he was only arresting undocumented criminals. And yet I read in the local newspaper about Baltimore ICE arresting “collaterals”, undocumented immigrants with no criminal record who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, some of them longtime Maryland residents and community members, who pay taxes and have mixed-status families who rely on them.

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.

I am a nurse who has worked in a local hospital for over 12 years. We do not ask a patient or visitor for their citizenship status, because everyone deserves access to healthcare, to be treated with dignity, and should not be afraid to seek emergency health services. Allowing ICE into my place of work would interfere with providing safe patient care.

During the first Trump administration, I volunteered for an organization where I interviewed potential sponsors of asylum seekers. Sponsors would provide asylees a place to live, enroll their kids in school, and help them navigate their new country while awaiting their immigration hearing. Unlike refugees, I was surprised to learn that asylum seekers were not allowed to work and were not eligible for federal resources, often relying instead on the kindness of faith groups

and state initiatives.

My place of worship participates in a local food pantry and offers emergency utility and eviction assistance. We do not ask for citizen status either because everyone deserves to be fed and have a safe place to live, which aligns with Jesus's teachings and my Christian values. The threat of ICE showing up at my church will discourage immigrants from seeking these resources.

Matthew 25:34-40 says,

“you who are blessed by my Father,...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.”

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.**

Sincerely,

Jen Roman

Odenton, MD 21113

CAN Testimony in support of SB828 - Immigration En

Uploaded by: Jerry Kickenson

Position: FAV



faith. love. liberation.
fe. amor. Liberación.

**Testimony in support of Senate Bill 828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**

To: Hon. William Smith, Jr., chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Jerry Kickenson, Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network

Date: February 28, 2025

We are writing in **support of Senate Bill 828, Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**, on behalf of the Congregation Action Network (CAN). The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With congregations and members throughout the capital area, including congregations with hundreds of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

As people of faith committed to justice and compassion for immigrants, we adhere to the sacred texts of most major faiths that call for welcoming the stranger and treating each other with love, dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be treated fairly and have the same protections as all Maryland residents.

SB828 will direct the Maryland Attorney General to develop guidelines for sensitive locations, such as schools, hospitals and churches, to explain how to limit federal immigration enforcement at those locations to the fullest extent consistent with federal and state law. Immigrant families should be able to access education, health care, social services, and be able to worship, without fearing arrest and family separation.

We respectfully urge you to reach a **favorable** report for SB828. It will help reduce the fear of Maryland residents accessing critical services and while exercising their right to religious expression.

Respectfully yours,
Jerry Kickenson
Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator
Congregation Action Network
Silver Spring, MD

SB 828_Jo Shifrin_FAV (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Jo Shifrin

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: March 4, 2025

Jo Shifrin
Bethesda, MD 20817

TESTIMONY ON SB 828 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Jo Shifrin

OPENING: My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 828, Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

A hundred years ago or so, my grandparents came to this country as immigrants from Russia, Ukraine, and Poland. They worked hard and assimilated into the fabric of this country. Immigrants before and since have come to this country and contributed to its greatness.

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 in policy has created 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.

If enacted, SB 828 will require the Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at certain sensitive locations, and require State agencies that operate at these locations to adopt those policies or provide written notice of a decision not to adopt those policies. SB 828 will protect access to essential services such as medical care, allow children to attend school without fear, and enable individuals to seek justice in the courts without the threat of detention. When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, the entire Maryland community is safer. By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, trust will be fostered between immigrant communities and the institutions that serve them. Trust is necessary for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I respectfully urge the Committee to return a favorable report on SB 828.

SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.pdf

Uploaded by: John Ford

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being written in collaboration with Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. I am also writing in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of **District 46, a community association board member, city employee, and workforce development professional deeply dedicated to my local 21224 community. The 21224 community is one deeply reliant on immigrants to thrive. I am testifying in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.** Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Preston Ford
529 S East Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

CDC SB282.pdf

Uploaded by: John Handley

Position: FAV

COLUMBIA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

REQUESTS FAVORABLE REPORT ON MARYLAND SENATE BILL 828

Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

February 19, 2025

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Columbia Democratic Club submits this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 828 (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act), introduced by Chair Smith. This bill is a critical measure to ensure that essential community spaces remain safe and accessible to all Maryland residents, regardless of their immigration status.

SB828 protects vulnerable individuals by limiting immigration enforcement at sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, places of worship, and social service centers. These sites are vital for education, healthcare, and community support for all Marylanders. Fear of enforcement actions in such spaces often deters individuals from seeking critical services, endangering public health and safety.

The bill also upholds accountability by requiring state agencies to align with guidelines set by the Attorney General or provide transparency if they choose not to comply. This balance between safety and transparency fosters public trust in state institutions.

As an emergency measure, SB828 reflects the urgency of protecting public welfare and preserving community cohesion. It ensures that every resident, especially children, the elderly, and survivors of violence, can access essential services without fear.

I urge the committee to support Senate Bill 828 and advance it for swift passage to promote safety, dignity, and trust within our communities.

Respectfully,

John Handley, on behalf of Columbia Democratic Club



SB 828_MD Center on Economic Policy_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kali Schumitz

Position: FAV

All Immigrants Should Be Able to Access Essential Services Without Fear

Position Statement Supporting Senate Bill 828

Given before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Immigrants make up a significant portion of Maryland's population and are an essential part of the state's community and economy contributing to the workforce, tax base and innovation. As members of our communities, access to essential services for all immigrants is important because it helps improve their health and wellbeing and ensures their children are educated, all of which benefits our state. **The Maryland Center on Economic Policy supports Senate Bill 828 because it will ensure that immigrants aren't deterred from accessing crucial services due to fear of immigration enforcement.**

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.

Just over 1 million immigrants reside in Maryland working sectors across our state's economy. About 36 percent of Main Street business owners in Maryland are immigrants, operating storefront shops that help keep downtown areas vibrant. About 21 percent of Maryland's workers are immigrants including 33 percent of child care workers, 29 percent of registered nurses and 27 percent of software developers¹.

Immigrant workers and business owners generate \$85 billion of economic output in Maryland. In fact, when immigrants move to Maryland the economy grows and this doesn't mean fewer jobs, it means more jobs, more consumers, more workers and more business owners. All Marylanders have benefitted from state policies that make our state a welcoming place for immigrants.

The Maryland Center on Economic Policy supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.

2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

The Maryland Center on Economic Policy urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings committee to make a favorable report on SB 828.

ⁱ Immigration Research Institute, Immigrants are a Vital Part of Maryland's Future .

NASW Maryland - 2025 SB 828 FAV - Sensitive Locati

Uploaded by: Karessa Proctor

Position: FAV

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025**

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

The National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter, an organization representing social workers statewide, supports Senate Bill 828, a bill which will add in the protection of sensitive locations.

This bill will require the Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at certain sensitive locations and require State agencies that operate at sensitive locations to adopt policies consistent with the guidelines or provide written notice of a decision not to adopt policies consistent with the guidelines.

As a resident of Maryland for almost 21 years and as a social worker, one of our beliefs is the dignity and worth of a person. Passing this legislation will require the Attorney General to provide guidelines that will support the dignity and worth of person(s) who live and work in Maryland and help ease the fear of enforcement action occurring in places that they frequent on a daily basis.

Again, I urge this committee to support this bill. Thank You for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip A. Pratt, BSW, MSW, ACSW
President, Board of Directors, NASW-MD Chapter

SB828 Sugarman fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Kate Sugarman

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 0828

SB 0828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies

(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 4, 2025

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am a family doctor living in D 15 and I offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 0828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

I am a member of Doctors for Camp Closure, Maryland. I am Jewish and I take very seriously the Biblical commandment of welcoming the stranger. As a doctor I know without a shadow of a doubt that there is no healthy amount of time for a person to spend in an ICE jail. The medical and psychological conditions in ICE jails are deplorable. Even more heartbreaking, we know that putting a family member in an ICE jail results in family separation. Children suffer over the loss of a parent and the entire family suffers both emotionally and financially when they lose a wage earner and a loved one. Children lose their ability to concentrate in school. They can no longer thrive.

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.

Without protection of sensitive locations, such as hospitals and medical clinics, our patients will not feel safe seeking medical care. This not only has a negative impact upon the individual patient but also has a damaging effect on their families and communities. If patients with chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure are too afraid to seek medical care, they face a high risk of disability and preventable deaths. That results in suffering for them and their entire family. We know all too well from epidemics of infectious diseases such as Covid and tuberculosis that if an individual is afraid to seek care, entire communities are then at risk.

As health care workers we work each and every day to have a trusting relationship with our patients. All of that hard work will instantly be destroyed if our patients are at risk of deportation just because they were accessing the health care settings which we had encouraged them to visit.

As a family doctor I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

Protect Access to Essential Services: No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.

Enhance Public Safety: When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.

Strengthen Community Trust: By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 0828

Kate Sugarman, MD

Potomac MD 20854

Testimony in Support of SB0828_Blaha_SURJ.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Blaha

Position: FAV

Friday, February 28, 2025



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am submitting this testimony as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore, a group of individuals working to mobilize white people in a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland, an immigration advocacy and assistance organization based in Maryland. I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am testifying **in strong support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship. In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations. These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation.

On the first full day of his new term, President Trump engaged in racist, xenophobic grandstanding by heartlessly eliminating these safeguards and authorizing ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to terrorize our communities by stripping people of fundamental liberties and critical services, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life.

In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action **violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.**

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities.

HB1006 would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in strong support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Katherine Blaha
5706 Cross Country Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21209
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore

SB0828_FAV_Maryland Just Power Alliance.pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Wenger

Position: FAV



Support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (SB0828)

Dear Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

We are the [Maryland Just Power Alliance](#), a coalition of 3 non-partisan community power organizations: [Action in Montgomery \(AIM\)](#), [Anne Arundel Connecting Together \(ACT\)](#), and [People Acting Together in Howard \(PATH\)](#), representing tens of thousands of Maryland residents. We organize with people in congregations, schools, and neighborhoods to build power for policies that make our communities more fair and livable for everyone. We are asking you to support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (S0B828) when it is considered by the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act is crucial for protecting our congregations as sacred spaces to worship and our schools as safe spaces for our children. This bill will make a difference by providing clear guidance for these sensitive locations on how to respond to interactions with ICE and protect people's rights. We urge you to pass this bill out of your committee without delay so that, as an emergency bill, it can be signed by the Governor as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

2025 - SB 0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Ac

Uploaded by: Ken Phelps Jr

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0828:

Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

****FAVORABLE****

TO: Sen. William C. Smith, Jr., Chair, Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair and the members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd., Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: March 4, 2025

On February 11, the Episcopal Church is among dozens of multifaith plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging the U.S. government's recent rescission of guidelines that limited immigration enforcement in sensitive areas such as churches, schools, and hospitals.

Faith groups joining this lawsuit claim that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions in and around places of worship without a judicial warrant burden religious exercise in violation of the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The complaint argues that these enforcement actions interfere with the plaintiffs' ability to fulfill the religious mandate to welcome and serve immigrants. Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe said that in God's kingdom, immigrants and refugees are not at the edges, fearful and alone, but are the very center of God's story. "We believe their struggles reveal the heart of God, and we cannot worship freely if some among us live in fear," he said. "We are seeking the ability to fully gather and follow Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves."

As alleged in the complaint, there are Episcopal congregations across the United States that have already seen decreased attendance at worship services and social service ministries due to fears of ICE actions. In some places, even congregants with documented legal status are choosing to stay home for fear they may be mistakenly arrested based on their appearance.

Welcoming the stranger is not a political act—it's a sacred obligation. When immigrants walk through our church doors, they're not entering as outsiders; they are stepping into the heart of our faith, where their dignity and stories are embraced as reflections of God's love. Our support of this bill is about protecting our ability to live out the Gospel without fear or interference.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

“We are told by the rulers of our day that the rich shall be first; that compassion is a weakness; that we should regard the migrants and strangers among us with fear and contempt,” Bishop Rowe said. “But I ask us all to see that our true citizenship is in God’s kingdom, where the meek shall inherit the earth, the merciful shall receive mercy, and the captives shall go free.”

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report.

SB828 Support (Written).pdf

Uploaded by: Kenzie Funk

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 828: Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

Position: Support

March 3, 2025

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

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

At Strong Schools Maryland, we work to support the faithful implementation of the promises legislated through the landmark Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. The Blueprint envisions a public schools system where all students can feel safe and supported to learn and thrive in the school community. The students and families who have been promised this education and safe space include immigrant and undocumented communities. School is one of the few social supports that is protected for all communities and the current enforcement of immigration policies in originally protected/sensitive locations deeply negatively impacts students, families, and the overall schools community. **For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 828, which would, if enacted, codify all preschools, primary and secondary schools, vocational and trade schools, and colleges or universities as “sensitive locations”** to protect students and families from invasive and harmful immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities.

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 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.

A lack of protections for immigrant communities from ICE activities deeply harms both students and the overall school community.

Strict Immigration enforcement and the presence of ICE activities in and around schools deeply undermines the safety, stability, and well being of students and the broader school community. When there is increased ICE activity around schools, there are documented declines in school attendance as families, fearing separation, withdraw their children. Moving reactively due to systemic marginalization disrupts student education and often leads to significant negative impacts to academic outcomes.¹ Beyond academic threats, the pervasive threat of ICE enforcement and activity in schools contributes to toxic stress in children which impacts brain development, and increases risk of depression, anxiety, PTSD, and severe psychological distress.² The burden of these negative impacts overwhelmingly fall on Black and Brown children in our public schools. Further, this enforcement promotes disengagement from essential social supports, limiting critical resources for families and weakening community trust.³ The effect of ICE enforcement in and around schools contradicts the mission of our public school system in Maryland and erodes the foundational promises made to our students.

Strong Schools Maryland stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

Commitment to supporting and protecting immigrant student groups who are predominantly Black and Brown and English Language Learners is interwoven into every pillar of the Blueprint. Early childhood education is available and accessible for *all* families, taking into account language, fiscal, and cultural needs. Community schools provide community services and support for *all* students in the school community. The law mandates equitable funding to address the needs of historically and systemically marginalized students in order to provide services such as English language learner resources and support. The Blueprint is built on the very foundation of active community engagement and accountability to governing systems to ensure that *all* students are equitably served, including and prioritizing supports and protections for immigrant and undocumented students. Without preserving the protections for immigrant communities in our schools, the promises of the Blueprint will never be realized and real students and families will be harmed in the process.

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, we urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 828.

Please contact Kenzie Funk at kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.

¹ [How Strict Immigration Enforcement Harms School Children](#)

² [American Immigration Council](#)

³ [Immigration Enforcement and US Schools: What Could Happen and What Education Leaders Can Do](#)

FAV SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin James

Position: FAV

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,

Kevin James is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

I support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because I don't believe anyone should feel deterred from places like hospitals, schools, places of worship, and courthouses. As a former paramedic I know that people already weigh how costly a visit to the emergency room will be when deciding whether or not to seek medical care. Worrying about arrest and deportation on top of medical bills will result in fewer people getting care until their condition becomes so acute that they require more extensive and expensive care than they would have if they'd been treated sooner. Hospitals should be a lifeline not a lasso.

As a former teacher I'm probably biased to the value of education. If ICE is allowed to arrest children on school grounds, the ones detained won't be the only ones affected. We already punish children by sending them to under-resourced schools when they come from low income households. Arresting children at school will teach the ones who remain that punishing their peers is more important than funding their schools.

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.

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.**

Global Refuge Support of SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Krish O'Mara Vignarajah

Position: FAV

**Global Refuge’s Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 828
Protecting Sensitive Locations Act
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee – Bill Hearing
March 4, 2025 at 1:00 PM**

Good afternoon,

Chairman Smith and esteemed members of the committee, my name is Krish O’Mara Vignarajah. I serve as President and CEO of Global Refuge, and I am here today to testify in support of Bill 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, which would require the Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at certain sensitive locations and require state agencies that operate at sensitive locations to adopt policies consistent with the guidelines.

A. Introduction

Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), is a faith-based nonprofit dedicated to serving newcomers. We operate in 50 states and in Guatemala and Mexico where we provide services to repatriated youth. We work in partnership with the federal government, resettling refugees and serving unaccompanied children, and facilitate programs and services for immigrants and New Americans including mental healthcare, legal services, financial literacy, employment skills, and job placement assistance. While our reach is national and international, our home is Maryland. Our headquarters is based on Light Street in Baltimore, just steps from the city’s Inner Harbor. In 2024, we expanded our reach and now provide more services for refugees and other immigrants in the Baltimore area at our Welcome Center in Fells Point.

Since 1939, Global Refuge has provided welcome and hope to more than 800,000 people, transforming lives and empowering New Americans with support and resources to begin anew. Our history reflects our own deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, and we are proud to continue that work in Maryland and Baltimore. In the last year alone, with the help of our affiliates around the country, we resettled 18,622 refugees, including 1,178 in Maryland, and served 473 clients in Baltimore and the surrounding areas.

B. Support of Senate Bill 828, Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

I urge you to support Senate Bill 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, and I want to offer our strong support. Citizens and noncitizens alike should be able to access essential daily activities such as attending school, visiting a hospital, or obtaining emergency health services without the fear of immigration enforcement. Global Refuge supports Bill 828 because (1): it is an important step to help ensure that noncitizens in Maryland will be able to access essential and emergency services through issuance of clear guidance; (2): it helps to protect mixed status families who may be worried about the impacts of heightened immigration enforcement; and (3): it preserves the stability and continuity of communities across the state.

- (1) *Bill 828 provides that the Attorney General will develop guidelines for entities operating at sensitive locations, providing instructive guidance consistent with state and federal law.*

Bill 828 outlines schools, medical healthcare facilities, places of worship, social services establishments like domestic violence shelters, and courthouses as sensitive locations. Having the Attorney General issue such guidance in collaboration with feedback from stakeholders, such as the Maryland immigrant and immigration service community, will enable more understanding about permissible action in sensitive locations in Maryland. This would crucially allow noncitizens to go to the doctor when sick, escape abuse by seeking refuge at a domestic violence shelter, and attend court hearings. The sensitive locations outlined in this text represent institutions that are necessary for basic survival and overall well-being. Without protected areas guidance, immigrant families will likely be deterred from accessing such institutions in fear of facing immigration enforcement.

- (2) *Bill 828 will ensure that mixed status families are better protected from indiscriminate immigration enforcement operations.*

As of 2023, 81,000 U.S. citizen children in the state of Maryland are living with at least one undocumented parent.¹ Without protected areas policies, immigration enforcement actions could be taken at or near schools of all grades, putting the 81,000 Maryland citizen children and their undocumented parents at risk of arrest or removal and resulting ultimately in devastating situations of family separation. When children are separated from one or both parents, they fall victim to a ripple effect of consequences like economic insecurity, risks to their immediate safety, and adverse impacts on well-being and long-term development.² These impacts are compounded in circumstances where a child witnesses their parent's arrest or detention—not only are they subject to the negative impacts of family separation, but they have also just witnessed a traumatic event that will no doubt affect their long-term development.³ Children and young adults who remain with their parents or primary caregivers experience better outcomes across the board, shaping their development into adulthood and their future societal participation.

- (3) *Bill 828 would help to preserve the stability of Maryland communities.*

In the absence of protected areas guidance, a chilling effect will be felt across entire immigrant communities who are too afraid to access medical care, drop their child off at school, access emergency health services, or go to their place of worship to pray. Protected areas guidance is uniquely important due to the public health and safety implications: when noncitizen community members are too afraid to go to vaccination sites or receive care for contagious diseases, noncitizen and citizen community members alike are at risk. Children who witness immigration threats to their classmates and their classmates' parents may not receive the full benefit of their education, and all people of faith, including citizens, will see their worship disrupted if churches, mosques, and synagogues become targets for

¹ American Immigration Council. Immigrants in Maryland. 2023. [Immigrants in Maryland - American Immigration Council](#)

² The Urban Institute. Facing Our Future. Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement. February 2010. [Facing Our Future](#)

³ Center for Law and Social Policy. Millions of Children Threatened by Repeal of "Protected Area" Safeguards. January 21, 2025. [Millions of Children Threatened by Repeal of "Protected Area" Safeguards | CLASP](#)

immigration enforcement actions. Schools, places of worship, and hospitals are places where people come together to provide care and receive support. These locations ensure community well-being for the good and stability of our entire state. When people feel safe participating in daily activities in their community, this benefits all Marylanders.

C. Conclusion

I urge you to favorably support Senate Bill 828 to ensure that community members across the state of Maryland feel safe dropping their children off at school, going to the doctor when sick, praying at their place of worship, and accessing emergency support services. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this piece of legislation and putting forth this important measure to protect immigrant communities and also Maryland citizens. We look forward to working with you to help implement this important policy and collaborate to continue promoting the well-being and safety of all individuals, including immigrants and refugees, in our communities.

Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, President & CEO
Global Refuge
700 Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

SB0828.FAV.LauraAtwood.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Atwood

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 0828

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Hearing date: March 4, 2025

From: Laura Atwood, Silver Spring, MD

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I live in D20 and am pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 0828.**

I'm a physical therapist, and I currently work in a rehab unit of a hospital system; I have also worked in home health. I routinely go from meeting a stranger to knowing that person's most private health and often psychosocial concerns. When people are in vulnerable health and cannot function independently (short-term or long-term), they rely on medical care, and they also rely on larger family and/or social networks.

My healthcare work also gives me practice seeing the deep humanity of every single person I encounter, and I bring that perspective to larger social justice issues, including immigration.

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.

During the first Trump administration and early Covid pandemic, I remember someone asking me: "My friend [without papers] wants to know, if she can't breathe, is it safe to go to a hospital?" I could confidently tell her: "It is safe immigration-wise, and it would be dangerous healthwise not to." But now?

It is vital for people to get healthcare, and for their loved ones to be able to support them. While in the hospital, many patients are scared (have you ever spent the night in a hospital alone?!)—so especially if they have severe anxiety and/or confusion, family members or private caregivers often stay with them for extended periods. Those support people also need to be, and feel, safe. And once those patients go home, they rely on their support systems; if the nephew who carries them down the stairs for medical appointments, or the "like-family" neighbor who fills their weekly pillbox, vanishes suddenly—not good.

Everyone should access essential services without fear of detention or separation. **I therefore urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 0828.**

Testimony in Support of SB 828-Indivisible Howard

Uploaded by: Laurie Liskin

Position: FAV



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.

SB 828_AACFB Testimony FAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Leah Paley

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank, I strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably for SB 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. This bill will allow Marylanders seeking assistance from food banks, food pantries, and other vital social service providers to continue to visit these sensitive locations without fear of immigration enforcement.

The Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) supplies food and other necessities, like diapers and nutritional supplements, to a county-wide network of food pantries, specialized senior and baby pantries, and our Mobile Food Pantry program. Through our pantry partners and distributions, we provide these vital resources to anyone who requests assistance. Aside from basic demographic information, we do not require identification or maintain records of the people who receive our services. We have done this since 1986 and strive to provide services to all who need them in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Last fiscal year, we gave away the equivalent of 3.1 million meals—over 4 million pounds of food and other necessities.

The need hasn't gone away—food insecurity levels remain near pandemic-era highs, and some populations—recent immigrants, veterans, and seniors—suffer at a higher rate. However, a segment of the population we serve is becoming unreachable. Due to the recent change of a long-standing order protecting areas like schools and churches from the threat of federal raids, we have seen indications that recent immigrants are choosing not to come to food pantries because they fear such raids. Earlier this month, we hosted a Mobile Food Pantry distribution in the southern part of Anne Arundel County at the Deale Library. At least two individuals receiving services that day requested food for their neighbors who were too afraid to come to the distribution for fear that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents would be in attendance.

The inevitable result of immigration enforcement at food pantries is higher rates of food insecurity among Marylanders. Recent immigrants with and without documentation rely on food pantries as they navigate their new country. By making that path more difficult, we force vulnerable families, working men and women, and children to suffer needlessly. Restoring protections to these locations will make our residents and our state stronger and healthier for the future.

We have always assisted county residents of all backgrounds. We believe that our fellow humans have the right to eat, and in a wealthy state like ours, no one should be forced to go without a nutritious meal. As such, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank urges a favorable report on SB 828.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Paley".

Leah Aiello Paley, LMSW
Chief Executive Officer
Anne Arundel County Food Bank

sb828 sanctuary JPR 3-4-2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Lee Hudson

Position: FAV



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony Prepared for the
Judicial Proceedings Committee
on
Senate Bill 828
March 4, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about human rights and human movement. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a faith community with three synods in every part of the State.

Our global communion has addressed human movement since 1939.

In 2019 we adopted these commitments in national assembly:

- *To reaffirm the long-term and growing commitment of this church to migrants and refugees...as exemplified most recently in the comprehensive strategy Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO)*
- *To request that appropriate staff on the AMMPARO team, LIRS (now Global Refuge), and the Domestic Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units review the existing strategies and practices by (our) five current sanctuary synods and develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment around sanctuary*
- *To declare the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America a sanctuary church body...*

Federal policy designates schools, medical facilities, and worship sites as “sensitive locations” for immigration enforcement. One reason cited is their beneficial and necessary services in the general public. Well and good. But our commitment to sanctuary, a faith practice originating in the early Middle Ages, is also about our identity as a people assembled before God with obligations to the sacred. The long tradition with its origins in Hebrew Scripture tells us to keep our doors open to the stranger, sojourner, and inquirer. People without papers come into our buildings, worshipping assemblies, and fellowships because we are a people before God and the sacred. We are on public record that we will not collude or cooperate with policing actions directed at people without papers, especially in our facilities and organizations.

For that reason we urge maintaining the “sensitive locations” policy. Like the similar *House Bill 1006* which we’ve supported, **Senate Bill 828** may assist people who need sanctuary address immediate and urgent issues, and help their immediate communities become safer and more socially functional. We urge a favorable report.

Lee Hudson

Montgomery County Community Action Board Testimony

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FAV



Montgomery County Community Action Board Testimony
SB828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
March 4, 2025
SUPPORT

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Chair; The Honorable Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair; and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Dr. Jeffery Johnson, Chair, Montgomery County Community Action Board

The Montgomery County Community Action Board, the County's local, state, and federally designated anti-poverty group, strongly supports SB828, which would require the Attorney General to develop guidelines limiting immigration enforcement at sensitive locations (schools, houses of worship, medical or mental health facilities, social services programs, etc.) to the fullest extent possible under the law. This bill would also require state agencies operating at these locations to adopt policies consistent with the guidelines or submit a written explanation detailing why they are not following the guidelines and including their current policies.

As the governing body for the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, we have heard about the chilling effect of recent immigration policies. Our agency's Takoma-East Silver Spring (TESS) Community Action Center, Navigation Team, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provide direct services to residents and link residents to additional supports. We have heard about residents who are now fearful to seek services or to go to locations that were once considered safe. We have also heard from partner organizations that are receiving a record number of requests for "Know Your Rights" trainings. Food distribution programs have seen their numbers drop and some have even moved food distribution events inside so that participants feel safer picking up groceries.

Similarly, as our board is the governing body for Head Start in the County and the agency is the grantee, we are receiving disturbing reports that current immigration policies are instilling fear in families and negatively impacting attendance at schools. Anxious parents who are concerned for their own safety and the safety of their children have reached out asking for help to walk their children home from school. Parents are afraid to leave their homes and are afraid to linger at bus stops. Families fear being separated and are NOT sending their children to school consistently out of fear. The children, many of whom are citizens, are missing out on instruction, being exposed to toxic levels of anxiety, and are being kept from their daily routines and their friends and teachers who care about them.

This trend is alarming. At this critical time, we must do everything in our power to make sure all residents feel safe in their schools, social services offices, doctors' offices, religious spaces, and other places where residents seek education, supports, and emergency assistance. Being in a perpetual state of fear can cause irreparable damage to a person's wellbeing, and to a community--our Montgomery County community. The emotional health of a person affects all aspects of their life, including their physical health, and their ability to function in society, make a living, go to school, care for children, etc.

Undocumented individuals face many barriers when seeking gainful employment. Losing safe spaces compounds the needs of families as they are unable to find employment and are so overwhelmed by fear, they are unable to seek food and supports from community agencies. This is inhumane. SB828 can help to alleviate some of the fears many of our neighbors have and help to ensure that they continue to seek services.

Montgomery County is home to one of the most diverse populations in the country, where 20.9% of residents are Black, 16.1% of residents are Asian, 21.1% of residents are Hispanic or Latino, and 40.6% of residents are white/not Hispanic or Latino. Additionally, a third of the County's population was born outside of the United States.¹ Our board believes that the County's diversity is to be celebrated and supported. This means that we must take action to protect our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable.

The Montgomery County Community Action Board strongly supports SB828 and asks for the Committee's favorable report.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/montgomerycountymaryland/PST045224>

DRMtestimony.SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Margolis

Position: FAV

SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

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

Date: March 4, 2024

Position: Support

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the protection and advocacy organization for the State of Maryland; the mission of the organization, part of a national network of similar agencies, is to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the state. DRM has joined the testimony of the Education Advocacy Coalition (EAC) in strong support of Senate Bill 828 but submits separate testimony to underscore the importance of this bill to individuals with disabilities who need access to schools, medical and health care facilities, and social services organizations without fear that immigration officials will arrest them as they seek the services and treatment that enable them to lead meaningful lives in the community.

As the EAC testimony notes, the United States Supreme Court ruled more than 50 year ago that all children, regardless of immigration status, have the right to public education. *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1972). DRM represents a number of immigrant children and youth in special education matters to ensure that they have access to public education and, more specifically, to the free appropriate public education to which they are entitled under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*. The immigration status of the children we represent is irrelevant to our representation; our goal is to ensure that all children and youth with disabilities receive the specialized instruction and related services that will enable them to make educational progress and meet Maryland's lofty goal of that every student will leave school career and college ready.

Access to health and medical facilities is also essential to individuals, both children and adults, with disabilities. Including urgent care centers and community health centers in addition to hospitals and doctors' offices ensures that people with disabilities will be able to seek the care they need. DRM has been told of at least one situation in which an individual was arrested and detained without his medication when immigration officers went to a facility serving people who have been released from psychiatric hospitals. DRM hopes that if Senate Bill 828 is enacted, the guidelines developed by the Attorney General will make clear that supervised and supportive housing programs for people with disabilities are included within the definition of "sensitive location".

Disability Rights Maryland Testimony: Senate Bill 828

March 4, 2025

Page Two

DRM appreciates that Senate Bill 828 addresses foster children and youth; among the most vulnerable individuals with disabilities, they need the protection offered by the sensitive location designation of the places they live and the places where they may have supervised visitation with their parents or other relatives.

Senate Bill 828 is an essential component of ensuring that all Marylanders, including those with disabilities, have the ability to access the locations where they live their lives without being haunted by the fear that they or a loved one will be arrested and detained by immigration officials.

For these reasons, DRM strongly supports Senate Bill 828.

Contact: Leslie Seid Margolis, lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org or 443-692-2505.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Seid Margolis

Managing Attorney and Policy Counsel

SB0828_LindaBergofsky_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Linda Bergofsky

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: March 4, 1:00 PM
Linda Rae Bergofsky
Poolesville, MD 20837

TESTIMONY ON SB0828- POSITION: FAVORABLE
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Linda Bergofsky

I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0828, Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

By way of background, I am a member of Oseh Shalom synagogue in Laurel, MD and serve as the chair of its Social Justice committee. I am also a substitute teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools and an ally of CASA, through which I advocate for protecting the rights and privacy of my immigrant neighbors. I'm writing to urge you to support SB0828 and safeguard access to essential services and spaces by limiting ICE activities at sensitive locations. This legislation affirms Maryland's commitment to dignity, safety, and community by ensuring that all people, regardless of immigration status, can access healthcare, education, and critical resources without fear or intimidation.

The Trump Administration has shown its contempt for all of us by revoking protections that keep ICE from targeting sensitive locations. Without state-level legislation, our synagogue and the day care center it houses can be targeted by rampant immigration enforcement, terrorizing our members and guests and disrupting our communities. Maryland has an opportunity to lead with bold, humane policies that ensure no one must choose between safety and survival.

No one should hesitate to seek medical care, attend religious services, send their children to school, or seek safety due to the fear of family separation. Everyone in my very diverse county is safer when immigrant communities are encouraged to report crimes and participate in legal processes. In fact, the Montgomery County Council just passed the U-Visa bill as a sign of its commitment to immigrant safety.

Maryland has always welcomed immigrants, including my family who came to Baltimore at the end of the 19th century having escaped pogroms in Russia. SB0828 is an emergency bill that is required because of the exigent circumstances we face from an immoral and out-of-control Federal war against immigrants. **I stand with my immigrant neighbors and I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0828.**

Testimony SB828 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Linda Green

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 28, 2025

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

I am writing to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act). I am a resident of Mount Rainier.

I have lived in Mount Rainier since 1980 and have enjoyed the diversity of the neighborhood and the support for immigrants through our becoming a sanctuary city. My children went to Thomas Stone Elementary and I worked at Prince George's County Hospital for 20 years. Today I worry for the parents walking their children to Thomas Stone and patients seeking care at the H health department, clinics and hospitals. 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.

The impact of this shift in policy has meant that some children are staying home out of fear of ICE coming into the school. My neighbor who is a school bus driver knows children who are no longer riding the bus. A friend of ours from Venezuela is keeping her child at home for now. Will families be afraid to get vaccinations at the health department or seek medical care? Even before this policy shift I saw patients who waited too long before coming to the hospital with advanced kidney disease and cancer. I know that some of our residents were not willing to apply for rental assistance during COVID-19 because they already did not trust the government. Certainly this is more prevalent now.

Many of my immigrant neighbors are performing essential jobs in Mount Rainier. Some are nannies and reliable babysitters. Others work as landscapers and mechanics. Construction and home repair services are already harder to schedule as workers step back to avoid contact with ICE. Everyone should be able to work, to attend school, and to access essential services without fear of detention or separation.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.

Linda D. Green MD
Mount Rainier, Maryland



SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Lindsay Keipper

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of **District 46**, and I am testifying **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Keipper
2425 Fleet St., Baltimore

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

Support SB0828.pdf

Uploaded by: Linnie Girdner

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0828

SB0828 - 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,

I am writing to show **strong support** of **SB0828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

I provide testimony here as an individual who is active in Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) and on the Mission Team at Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church in Odenton. As part of SURJ and in collaboration with immigration organizations, I worked as a volunteer vetting prospective sponsors for asylum seekers during Trump's first administration, when children were being cruelly separated from their parents. SURJ Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Chapter has CASA as an accountability partner. A few years ago I participated with others in Anne Arundel County to get rid of 287g and the IGSA with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

I was stunned when Trump 2.0 signed an Executive Order that would allow ICE to enter Houses of Worship. This is in violation of Article 1 of the Constitution. **My faith calls me to welcome the immigrant and the stranger. At the very least a welcoming place must be a safe place, free from harassment and danger.** In the 1980's I supported a church in Illinois that was providing sanctuary. Bishop Desmond Tutu came and spoke to us about the Christian values and mission of providing safety within churches. It is a practice that has been honored for thousands of years. And it must continue.

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 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.

I see the fear in the eyes of people I know. And I wonder how Americans could become so cruel. Unless you are Native American or your ancestors were enslaved, you descend from immigrants who came to this country for a better life. I'm sure they worked hard and made a way, often out of no way. Do you see how hard today's immigrants are working repairing our streets, serving in our restaurants, cleaning our homes and buildings?

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 1006.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Girdner, Ph.D.

Gambrills, MD 21054

SB 828 - MFN - Sensitive Locations Act - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Kligenmaier

Position: FAV



Testimony Concerning Senate Bill 828
Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) strongly supports SB 828, which requires the Attorney General (AG) to develop guidelines – in consultation with stakeholders – to limit immigration enforcement at sensitive locations as allowable under federal and state law. Sensitive locations include schools, medical facilities, child care centers, places of worship, courthouses, social service agencies, and other locations deemed appropriate by the AG.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other vital supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on policies that serve children and families and are strongly committed to ensuring that children and their caregivers have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

All Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, should be able to access child care, education, health care, and social services without fear of discrimination and separation from their families and communities. For over a decade, federal policy has limited Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in sensitive locations to prevent intimidation and ensure access to basic activities and critical services. Unfortunately, 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. It is imperative for Maryland to adopt policies – like SB 828 – to ensure that no family has to make an impossible choice between their safety and survival.

Maryland Family Network has witnessed ICE enforcement actions in child care settings these past few weeks, actions that have separated families while traumatizing children and caregivers. Schools and child care settings should be safe places for children to learn, play, and grow, but tragically, we've seen the harmful impact of ICE enforcement actions in child care programs in Maryland. Parents have been picked up by ICE while dropping off and picking up their children from care, and witnessing these enforcement actions has traumatized the children of the parent(s) being detained, as well as the child care providers who are responsible for the children. A plethora of research demonstrates that the fear of ICE actions has a dramatically negative impact on the health of immigrant families, exacerbating current health conditions and increasing vulnerability to others, particularly anxiety,



depression, high blood pressure, and migraines.¹ Moreover, witnessing a family member or client being detained in an immigration action also causes long-lasting psychological trauma.²

Immigration enforcement actions have a chilling effect on child care enrollment, as parents often keep their children home instead of in care in fear of contact with ICE. Access to early childhood programs and high-quality child care has far-reaching positive effects, from improved socio-economic outcomes, increased earnings as adults, and higher academic achievement throughout schooling.³ These programs also connect families to other critical resources, such as nutrition, health, and family supports. Children and their families cannot reap the benefits of early childhood education programs if they are too afraid to attend or enroll.⁴ Limiting ICE immigration enforcement at child care centers – and other sensitive locations – helps these critical programs function as intended, allowing all Maryland children access to quality care.

Creating opportunities for all Maryland families to thrive fosters community well-being and strengthens our state's economy. **Maryland Family Network respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 828.**

Submitted by: Lisa Klingenmaier, Deputy Director of Public Policy

¹ Social Science Medicine. 2012. *The Impact of Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Immigrant Health*. [https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3159749/#:~:text=Fear%20of%20Deportation,-Fear%20of%20deportation&text=Some%20even%20worried%20that%20other%20immigrants%20would%20report%20them%20to%20authorities.&text=While%20one%20might%20assume%20that,%E2%80%9Cstatus%E2%80%9D%20might%20be%20questioned.&text=Many%20participants%20were%20particularly%20worried,up%20and%20taken%20by%20ICE.&text=Overall%2C%20deportation%20fear%20seemed%20to,\(English%2Dspeaking%20participant\)](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3159749/#:~:text=Fear%20of%20Deportation,-Fear%20of%20deportation&text=Some%20even%20worried%20that%20other%20immigrants%20would%20report%20them%20to%20authorities.&text=While%20one%20might%20assume%20that,%E2%80%9Cstatus%E2%80%9D%20might%20be%20questioned.&text=Many%20participants%20were%20particularly%20worried,up%20and%20taken%20by%20ICE.&text=Overall%2C%20deportation%20fear%20seemed%20to,(English%2Dspeaking%20participant))

² North Carolina Justice Center. 2018. *The ACE of ICE: How Current Immigration Enforcement and Deportation Hurts Children*. <https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/the-ace-of-ice-how-current-immigration-enforcement-and-deportation-hurts-children/>

³ Child Care Aware. 2020. *Quality Child Care Pays Off*. https://www.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Quality_ROI-1.pdf

⁴ Center for Law and Social Policy. 2018. *Keeping Immigrant Families Safe in Early Childhood Programs*. <https://www.clasp.org/blog/keeping-immigrant-families-safe-early-childhood-programs/>

CLS Support for SB0828 - Sensitive Locations Act.p

Uploaded by: Lisa Sarro

Position: FAV



Jessica A. Quincosa, Esq.
Executive Director

Kayla Williams-Campbell, Esq.
Deputy Director

Lisa Sarro, Esq.
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SB0828

Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act) Judicial Proceedings Committee Hearing March 4, 2025

Position: Favorable

To the Honorable Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Community Legal Services (CLS) is a nonprofit legal services provider dedicated to ensuring equitable access to justice and due process of law for Maryland’s most under-represented populations. We write in support of all parts of this bill, and in particular with respect to its impact on access to Maryland courts for people who urgently need the court’s protection but fear seeking out that protection as a result of the potential for immigration enforcement efforts within and near courthouses.

The Need for SB0828

Senate Bill 0828 is a crucial measure to ensure that all Maryland residents, regardless of their immigration status, can safely access the courts. Many of our clients are survivors of domestic violence and individuals threatened with eviction. For these individuals, the courthouse is not just a place of legal recourse—it is often their last hope for safety, justice, and protection. However, when courthouses become sites of immigration enforcement, many individuals, particularly undocumented immigrants and mixed-status families, avoid seeking the legal remedies to which they are entitled due to fear of arrest, detention, or deportation.

This fear is especially acute for survivors of domestic violence. Many survivors need court orders to protect themselves and their children from abusive partners. If they fear that seeking such protection could expose them to immigration enforcement, they may remain trapped in dangerous and violent situations. No person should have to choose between personal safety and the risk of deportation.

Additionally, individuals facing civil lawsuits, including debt collection actions or landlord-tenant disputes, must feel secure in appearing in court. **When people avoid the legal system due to fear of immigration enforcement, it results in default judgments, loss of housing, and further financial instability,** deepening systemic inequalities that disproportionately harm vulnerable populations.

Ensuring that courts are safe spaces where individuals can seek justice without fear is fundamental to the principles of fairness and due process. House Bill 1006 aligns with Maryland's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of all its residents, regardless of immigration status. **We therefore urge the committee to pass Senate Bill 0828** to reaffirm Maryland's dedication to justice for all.

Please feel free to reach out to Jessica Quincosa, Executive Director, and Lisa Sarro, Director of Litigation & Advocacy, with any questions at quincosa@clspgc.org, and sarro@clspgc.org, respectively.

Immigration - sensitive locations - testimony - se

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
www.mcasa.org

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire
443-995-5544

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 828
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
February 27, 2025

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute which provides direct legal services for survivors across the State of Maryland. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 828.

Senate Bill 828 – Sensitive Locations

This bill would require the Attorney General to develop guidance limiting immigration enforcement in sensitive locations, including victim services centers, child advocacy centers, and domestic violence shelters.

Previously, immigrants were protected from enforcement actions “near” sensitive locations. The prior federal policy ensured that individuals—regardless of their immigration status—could access victim services, education, healthcare, and religious services without fear. Eliminating protection for sensitive areas endangers the people who are immigrants without legal status, and also jeopardizes the well-being of entire communities, having a ripple effect well beyond the individuals most vulnerable. If anyone – immigrant or not – is fearful of coming forward to report sexual violence or seek help, this increases the chance that sex offenders will not be identified and will remain threats in our communities.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judicial Proceedings Committee to
report favorably on Senate Bill 828**

Testimony SB0828 Sensitive Locations.pdf

Uploaded by: Loreen Heinz

Position: FAV

TO: Chair Senator Smith, Vice Chair Senator Waldstreicher and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

SB828 IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT -SENSITIVE LOCATIONS -GUIDELINES AND POLICIES (PROTECTING SENSITIVE LOCATIONS ACT)

POSITION: FAVORABLE

My name is Loreen Heinz. I am a resident of District 12a. I am submitting testimony in favor of the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. I am speaking for myself and not representing any organization.

I was born in Cleveland, Ohio, lived there and in North Carolina before moving to Maryland 55 years ago. I was raised in a large extended family and went to public schools. Through example, all of us were taught to respect each other and those around us, to “Love thy neighbor as thyself”. As an adult, I also try to follow the tenet of many religions and traditions— to follow the Golden Rule “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”.

Professionally, I was an English teacher. In North Carolina I was on the staff of the first junior high school to integrate in Durham County. In Howard County high schools, I worked closely with the Black Student Achievement Program staff in one school; in another my room was one of a few designated as a safe place for LGBTQ students; in my assignment as an English Language Development teacher, our room was a refuge for Muslim students worried about personal safety after the 9/11 attacks. In all schools I worked hard to make sure marginalized students were safe and felt cared about; otherwise, how could they learn and thrive? In private life, I support many organizations, national and local, that work for civil and human rights—including decades long memberships in both The Southern Poverty Law Center in Alabama and Friends of Latin America, founded in Howard County.

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act will put into policy the basic tenets I learned to live by in Ohio. Undocumented immigrants are a part of our communities. They work, learn, play and pray among us. They contribute to our society both culturally and financially. It is unconscionable that ICE chooses to deport them using methods designed to induce trauma which affects not only them but all of us. I cannot imagine the immediate and long term distress of the whole community if a student or parent was taken away from the school or school grounds by government agents, or if the same happened during a religious service, in a work place or health care center. Not being documented is a civil offense, not a criminal one, and should be enforced in civil proceedings. Arresting undocumented people using the same harsh tactics as those being used to arrest people accused of violent crimes has no place in our state. Also, even using the term *criminal* to describe all undocumented people is a misnomer —language counts.

Respectfully, we should not govern by trauma and violence. I urge you to put yourselves in the shoes of the immigrants in our midst and vote in favor of this bill for their safety and ours.

Thank you.

Loreen Heinz
Columbia MD 21044

SB0828.pdf

Uploaded by: Lorraine Wilson

Position: FAV

Testimony Concerning: SB0828 Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

Judicial Proceedings Committee Hearing: March 4, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Honorable Judicial Proceedings Committee Members

I am writing in support of the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. I write today as an individual Maryland citizen for the past thirty years. As a teacher, I have seen up close the value that children from immigrant families bring to us all. The parents of these children were some of the bests I have ever known. My neighbors, who are immigrants with varying immigration status from one another are the best neighbors we have ever known. They are our friends, our community members, and valued by me and my husband for their sincere desire to work hard, see their children succeed, and contribute to our society.

I believe it is imperative that we do not diminish our moral standing by invading sensitive areas in order to detain and deport individuals. This, of course, would not be the case where there were an imminent threat of danger. This Bill would not change that. However, invading a child's school, playground, or to interrupt a church service is wholly uncalled for. This goes for hospitals and clinics as well. To sink to such a level as this, I fear, would put us in terrible moral standing not only in this country, but around the world. Our courage to pass this Bill could also encourage other States to do so.

As a teacher, I know what terrible psychological trauma such a thing can cause. Not only immigrant children, but all children would be horrified to witness this. Not only immigrants and their families, but friends and neighbors would also be horrified. Although we have had a broken immigration system for some time, there is not real need to cause this extra amount of pain to innocent victims.

In addition, as I listened to the testimonies yesterday in the Judiciary Committee, I was troubled to hear that many delegates were accusing the

witnesses of fear mongering, gaslighting, and basically telling immigrants they had nothing to fear at all. They referred to one I.C.E. agent who testified that none of this is happening and that they don't intend it to happen. Guess what, I.C.E. agents sometimes lie. In some ways, they are trained to do this in order to carry out their orders from above. Do not be fooled by this. Similar incidents happened during the last Trump administration and it is even more likely this time around.

I fully support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act HB1006.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Lorraine Wilson

8719 62nd AVE

Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

barranw@comcast.net

Maryland Protecting Sensitive Locations SB828 Mar

Uploaded by: Louise Weissman

Position: FAV

SB#828_Louise Weissman_FAV

Hearing Date: March 4, 2025
Louise Weissman
Greenbelt 20770

**TESTIMONY ON SB#828
POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Louise Weissman

My name is Louise Weissman. I am a resident of Greenbelt in District 22. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

I was born and raised in Boston, MA. I am the daughter and granddaughter of Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants who came to the United States from Eastern Europe before and just after WWI. I do not pretend to equate my family's experience with those of our current immigrants. But escaping persecution and/or poverty and dreaming of a better quality of life for our families were and are historic universal themes among immigrants yearning to make the United States their home.

As a child, I learned that performing ritual *mitzvot* (good deeds) is a means of *tikkun olam* (helping to repair the world). I also was taught that acts of '*tzedakah*' generate a more just world. I was also taught that Jews have an obligation to "Welcome the Stranger." an act mentioned 36 times in our Torah - the compilation of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

Whether documented or not, families deserve to experience the beacon of light that serves as the foundation of this country's values. For those who are undocumented, living in fear of enforcement are discouraged from cooperating with law enforcement; their children learn to fear the police; public safety is hampered; and when there are injuries or illnesses, undocumented immigrants avoid health care services warranted. We cannot ignore the physical, emotional and educational trauma immigrant children face when ICE carries out raids in childcare facilities, schools, or hospitals. Children simply do not develop as adults that have a sense of safety and security.

Before and just after his inauguration, President Trump announced that it would be a priority that ICE detain criminals during raids. Just a month in office, it has become clear that limiting the raids to criminals is not the Administration's plan. The Protecting Sensitive Locations Acts establishes very clear guidelines that are needed to protect from these situations.

In 1993, federal policy and directives were created to limit immigration enforcement activities in sensitive locations. Since 1997 the City of Greenbelt has honored a community pledge establishing the city's commitment to its diverse population and rejecting attempts at division and acts of bigotry, On February 10, 2025, the City Council reaffirmed its commitment to ensure that Greenbelt is a respectful and welcoming community, but now now those commitments are threatened.

SB#828 establishes clear guidelines restricting ICE access to sensitive locations, including schools, courthouses, hospitals, places of worship, and other vital spaces. Therefore, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#828.

PPM--SB 828--FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Luke Allen

Position: FAV

Committee:	Judicial Proceedings
Bill:	SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Hearing:	March 4, 2025
Position:	Favorable

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) strongly supports *Senate Bill 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)* as it is in the best interest of our patients and clinicians as well as our core value: “Care. No matter what.”

This legislation requires the Attorney General to establish guidelines for public schools, hospitals, places of worship, courthouses and other sensitive locations to limit immigration enforcement on the premises, in a manner allowed by state and federal law. As a health care provider, and often a provider to Maryland’s most vulnerable communities, PPM is committed to creating a health care environment that is inclusive and encourages all people to proactively care for their health—to include STI testing and treatment, family planning, cancer screening and more. At Planned Parenthood of Maryland, we do not believe any individual should be afraid of visiting a health care provider because of their or their family’s real or perceived immigration status. This fear and uncertainty may cause delays in seeking necessary health care which may lead to poor health outcomes for individuals and communities.

Further, as health care providers, PPM staff take their duty of care very seriously. Our staff is currently seriously concerned about the safety of all our patients, but particularly the most disenfranchised. Guidelines that limit immigration officials’ access to sensitive spaces will give our frontline healthcare workers the confidence to do their work free from the threat of intimidation and fear of federal law enforcement intervening while they are caring for a patient. With this legislation, we can ensure that healthcare settings are places of compassion and healing rather than places that put people at risk.

Thank you for your consideration; we respectfully request a favorable vote from the Judicial Proceedings Committee. Please contact Erin Bradley, Vice President of Public Affairs, at erin.bradley@ppm.care or (443) 604-3544 for additional information.

SB828 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Madelin Martinez

Position: FAV

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 4th, 2025

SUPPORT

Catholic Charities of Baltimore supports Senate Bill 828, which requires the Attorney General to develop guidelines limiting immigration enforcement at sensitive locations including schools, medical facilities, places of worship, locations where children gather, social services establishments, emergency response sites, ceremonial gatherings, public demonstrations, courthouses, and other designated areas, and requires state agencies to adopt these policies or provide written notice explaining their decision not to do so.

For a century, Catholic Charities has provided care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. We accompany Marylanders as they age with dignity, support their pursuit of employment and career advancement, heal from trauma and addiction, achieve independence, prepare for educational success, and welcome immigrant neighbors into Maryland communities.

As the largest private provider of human services in Maryland, Catholic Charities of Baltimore is committed to supporting immigrants through our Esperanza Center. The Esperanza Center, serving as a vital resource for immigrants since 1963, offers support through a dedicated team of staff and volunteers, providing essential services in education, healthcare, immigration legal matters, family reunification, and general community support to help immigrants from all over the world navigate life in their new country. Throughout our history of working with immigrant populations, we have observed that when immigrants and their loved ones perceive a risk of enforcement at locations such as schools, healthcare facilities, or social service agencies, they understandably avoid these critical resources. This dynamic can lead to public health concerns, educational disruptions, and diminished community well-being as families forego necessary care and support due to fear of being separated from their children and family members.

A recent incident illustrates this reality. Earlier this year, the father of a child in our Head Start program was detained by ICE at his home as he was getting ready to leave for work. When mom brought their child to our center later that morning, she was visibly distraught as she explained to staff what had happened. Our classroom teachers, family advocates, and center director were immediately faced with not only trying to support this family, who had now lost their primary breadwinner, but also determining what their responsibilities and options would be if immigration enforcement were to occur at our facility. The staff and other children were scared and upset. The incident created significant uncertainty and stress among our frontline workers who suddenly found themselves questioning how to protect the children and families they serve while fulfilling their professional obligations. Subsequently, the affected family was afraid to take their other child who was sick to the doctor or go to the grocery store to buy food. This example highlights the unnecessary burden placed on those serving our most vulnerable populations. While our organization is working to establish protocols for such situations, developing consistent responses across all our programs is challenging without standardized guidance at the state level.

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act would provide this much-needed guidance for the dignity and wellbeing of all Marylanders. This legislation does more than just establish guidelines – it creates places of safety where families can receive medical care without hesitation, children can learn without disruption, and communities can worship without apprehension. For service providers like Catholic Charities, this Act means our dedicated staff can focus on their true calling – helping those in need – rather than navigating the complex terrain of immigration enforcement or worrying that their facilities might become targets. In the most fundamental sense, this bill affirms that in Maryland, human dignity comes first, and vital services must be accessible to all who need them, regardless of immigration status. By creating clear, consistent standards across the state, we strengthen not only our social service network but the very fabric of our compassionate, inclusive Maryland community.

For these reasons, Catholic Charities of Baltimore urges the committee to issue a favorable report for Senate Bill 828.

Submitted By: Madelin Martinez, Assistant Director of Advocacy

Testimony on SB828 - Mara Levy (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Mara Levy

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of 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 Mara Levy and I am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act). I'm a proud resident of Silver Spring and have lived in Maryland most of my life. I'm an occupational therapist of 20 years and a small business owner. I'm also godmother to a little girl who was born to immigrant parents while living in my home.

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.

With the recent shifts in federal immigration policy, I'm terrified for my little girl and her parents. She's gone to the hospital a few times for various childhood ailments, as have her parents and brothers. Next time she's sick, her family will choose between getting her the care she needs and putting her at risk of losing her parents. She goes to preschool every day, and every day, her parents are afraid as they drop her off and pick her up from school. Her father was afraid to contest a traffic ticket since he'd have to be in the courthouse. Her parents have established themselves as contributing members of our community, and she's been growing and thriving. However, I'm now afraid every day that her parents will be taken away, and she'll be left alone.

As an occupational therapist who specializes in trauma, I'm well acquainted with the damage that is caused by chronic fear. Immunity is dampened, cognitive development is hampered, and her long term resiliency is threatened. I don't want this for my little girl, her parents, or the immigrant community.

I strongly urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB828 / HB1006.

Mara Levy MSOT, OTR/L, CLT-LANA, SEP

MB Testimony Sensitive Locations SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Maria Baltodano

Position: FAV

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

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

My name is Maria Baltodano and I am pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

I immigrated to this country from Nicaragua 11 years ago and have been here since then. I am a [what does she do for work] and as a proud member of the National Domestic Workers Alliance DMV Chapter—the leading voice for domestic workers—including nannies, house cleaners, and homecare workers in the United States. I am here today in full support of SB 828 to protect sensitive locations from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) because even though I am fortunate enough to be a permanent resident of this country, many of our immigrant neighbors and community members do not have documentation in this country.

Currently, there is a lot of fear in the immigrant community. I hear from my friends who are undocumented that they are afraid to leave their houses right now because of the threat of deportation. The truth is that many people have left their countries in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Many are running from dangerous conditions in their countries and look to the United States for safe haven. Yet, the last couple of weeks have felt very scary for many.

I had and raised my children in this country. I have planted my roots here and I can't imagine what it would be like to be separated from my family, can you? Yet, this is the truth for my undocumented brothers and sisters—that they run the risk of deportation in their day-to-day lives in places where we should feel the safest and in the country where they've planted their roots, the country where they've spent decades in. Children should be able to go to school, people should be able to worship, and everyone should have the right to seek medical attention if they need it without the threat of deportation.

For over a decade, ICE has had limited access to places like schools, hospitals, places of worship, and courthouses due to federal protections. However, under the new presidential administration, these protections have been revoked and the immigrant community has been left more vulnerable than ever before. As a result, our communities, public health, and overall safety are at risk.

I stand with the immigrant community and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services**, because no one should have to choose between seeking life-saving medical care and risking being separated from their family. Because our children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.

2. **Enhance Public Safety** because when immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn makes our communities less safe.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust** because it establishes clear boundaries for immigration enforcement will help to foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve us all. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB828.

SB828 Follingstad fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Marianne Follingstad

Position: FAV

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,

I am a 75yo resident of Maryland for over 50 years and I am submitting **favorable testimony in adamant support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

Since the beginning of Trump 1.0, I've been dedicating long hours in support of immigrants to provide much needed services and financial support working with Sanctuary DMV and Maryland Against ICE Detention. I assert that we need more immigrants, particularly the kinds that are now being hunted down. These are the people who form the backbone of this country. They work hard; bring creativity and energy to the US; pay taxes; provide vital services (many had to work during the COVID shutdown) such as health care, construction, and food processing that will go undone without them; and are actually less likely to participate in criminal activities than non-immigrants.

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.

If we don't protect their safety in sensitive locations, they will stay away from schools, religious spaces, courts, and even health care, which would jeopardize the health of us all. The more fearful they become for their safety, the less likely they are to contact authorities when they witness or know of crimes, again to the detriment of all Marylanders.

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 adamantly **urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828**.

Respectfully,

Marianne Follingstad
D17 Rockville, MD

32BJ testimony in support of MD SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Mario Murcia

Position: FAV



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Kentucky District

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New England District 615

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New Jersey District

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Western Pennsylvania District

- 412.471.0690

www.seiu32bj.org

**Testimony of Jaime Contreras, Executive Vice President 32BJ SEIU
In Support of SB 828
February 28, 2025**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Jaime Contreras and I am an Executive Vice President of 32BJ SEIU and Director of the Capital Area District. I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 828, which would require the Attorney General to develop guidelines that limit immigration enforcement at sensitive locations in Maryland.

32BJ SEIU represents over 175,000 members up and down the East Coast, over 20,000 of whom are here in the Virginia, Washington D.C., and Maryland region. Our members are predominantly immigrants and people of color, and make up the backbone of the property service industry: they are the essential cleaners, security guards, airport workers, and other building service workers who keep our homes, workplaces, schools, and transportation hubs clean and safe. With our dedicated members, we fight to build communities where immigrants can live free of fear and are treated with fundamental dignity and respect.

On behalf of our union and members, I strongly urge the legislature to support SB 828, which would restrict Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) access to schools, hospitals, places of worship, crisis centers, social service establishments, recreational centers where children gather, courthouses, and other sensitive locations and gatherings. With the recent revocation of federal protections around sensitive locations, immigrants across the country now live in constant fear of being torn away from their families. This bill would ensure that immigrant workers can continue to contribute to our state and local economies and lead productive lives without fear that interaction with basic social institutions would tear their family apart.

It is unacceptable that in the state of Maryland a parent should fear taking their child to school because it presents a threat of detention and deportation. Our schools should be welcoming and safe environments that support the learning and growth of all children, not sites of terror and family separation. Without the protections outlined in this bill, immigrant communities may be forced to forego essential and potentially life-saving services, such as visits to the hospital, refuge in a domestic violence shelter, or meals at a food bank. Immigrant communities may also be less likely to come to law enforcement when they have witnessed or been victim to a crime fearing that any contact with government institutions may put them or their family members on a path to deportation. This makes both immigrant and non-immigrant communities less safe.

Capital Area District

Jaime Contreras
Capital Area District Director

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Immigrants are hardworking, taxpaying Marylanders who make our state and economy stronger. In 2022, undocumented immigrants paid \$96.7 billion in federal, state, and local taxes, or about \$8,889 per person.ⁱ Here in Maryland their tax dollars fund our schools, social service agencies, courts, and shelters, and they should be able to access these essential public services that they pay into free from fear or intimidation.

32BJ urges the legislature to stand with immigrants and working families against the needless cruelty that federal attacks are inflicting upon our communities. By passing SB 828, legislators can stand against family separations and instead invest in a stronger, safer Maryland for all. Thank you.

ⁱ <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-taxes-2024/>

HBXX_FAV_Ramirez-Quevedo.pdf

Uploaded by: Marjorie Ramirez-Quevedo

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

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

I, Marjorie Ramirez-Quevedo, Spanish teacher for Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) in Maryland, am pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

As a high school teacher in MCPS, I witness firsthand the fear and anxiety that my immigrant students and their families experience every day. Many of them come from low-income backgrounds and have shared with me their deep concerns about ICE enforcement in places that should be safe—our schools, their places of worship, and healthcare facilities. Some students have told me directly that they and their families are afraid to attend school, go to church, or even leave their homes for basic necessities.

This issue matters to me because education should be a refuge, not a place of fear. Every child deserves to learn in a safe environment where they can focus on their future without the constant worry of being torn from their families. Schools are meant to be places of growth, not fear. When students are too afraid to attend class, their ability to succeed is compromised.

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.

I believe in the fundamental dignity of all people. No one should have to live in fear of seeking medical care, attending religious services, or sending their children to school. My commitment to protecting sensitive locations comes from both my role as an educator and my personal belief in justice and human dignity. The SB 828 bill is not just about policy—it's about ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our communities can live without fear in spaces meant to support them.

As a teacher and a member of the community I stand with immigrant communities and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be

able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.

2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I, Marjorie Ramirez-Quevedo, **urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.**

SB828-HB1006_FAV_Ramirez-Quevedo.pdf

Uploaded by: Marjorie Ramirez-Quevedo

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

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This issue matters to me because education should be a refuge, not a place of fear. Every child deserves to learn in a safe environment where they can focus on their future without the constant worry of being torn from their families. Schools are meant to be places of growth, not fear. When students are too afraid to attend class, their ability to succeed is compromised.

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.

I believe in the fundamental dignity of all people. No one should have to live in fear of seeking medical care, attending religious services, or sending their children to school. My commitment to protecting sensitive locations comes from both my role as an educator and my personal belief in justice and human dignity. The SB 828 bill is not just about policy—it's about ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our communities can live without fear in spaces meant to support them.

As a teacher and a member of the community I stand with immigrant communities and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be

able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.

2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I, Marjorie Ramirez-Quevedo, **urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.**

SB828_MarjorieSimon_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Marjorie Simon

Position: FAV

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 Marjorie Simon. I am a resident of District 11B. Along with others from my synagogue, Chizuk Amuno Congregation and Schools, I have been helping to resettle Afghan newcomers since February 2022. I am submitting **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828-Immigration Enforcement-Sensitive Locations-Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

The family I am currently assisting has children in middle school and high school. They are working so hard to learn English and to succeed in school. I don't want them to feel that school is not a safe place for them.

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.

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.**

SB 828_PJC_Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Hill

Position: FAV



C. Matthew Hill
Public Justice Center
201 North Charles Street, Suite 1200
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
410-625-9409, 229
hillm@publicjustice.org

SB 828: Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Position: **Favorable**

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

The Public Justice Center strongly supports SB 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, and urges you to issue a favorable report.

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty legal services organization which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. The PJC provides advice and representation to low-income clients, advocates before legislatures and government agencies, and collaborates with community and advocacy organizations; we actively incorporate anti-racism and racial equity goals into our advocacy work. Our organization frequently represents and partners with immigrants and immigrant communities impacted by this legislation. For example, we often represent tenants who are immigrants in eviction cases and cases seeking to hold their landlord accountable for dangerous conditions of disrepair, and we advance equitable access to school by representing students and families. We also represent workers whose employers are paying less than minimum wage, denying overtime benefits, or unfairly classifying them as contractors.

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.

ICE enforcement at sensitive locations would compromise the safety, disrupt services, and create fear among our immigrant-clients. For example, our Housing team frequently represents tenants who must come to courthouses in eviction cases and in cases seeking to hold their landlord accountable for dangerous housing conditions and predatory practices. Landlords of our

The Public Justice Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and as such does not endorse or oppose any political party or candidate for elected office.

immigrant clients already often threaten to call ICE on our clients if they defend against the landlord's wrongful eviction case or seek to hold the landlord accountable for dangerous housing defects. If we cannot assure our immigrant clients that the courthouse is a sensitive location in which ICE is very unlikely to be present, our immigrant clients will be much less likely to attend court to defend against the wrongful eviction case or to hold the landlord accountable for dangerous conditions of disrepair. When our immigrant clients do not hold their landlords accountable in court for fear of ICE enforcement, the community loses too. When renters do not defend court cases and are subsequently evicted, the state pays more. [Preventing eviction saves the state money by reducing homelessness and state-funded safety net costs](#) related to shelter, educating students experiencing homelessness, health care, foster care, decreased incarceration, and the economic impacts of increased employment and income stability. Additionally, when renter-immigrants are terrified of coming to court because of the potential for ICE enforcement at the courthouse, they are unable to hold their landlord accountable for dangerous conditions—which means that the whole neighborhood suffers from the blight and decay perpetuated by negligent property owners.

SB 828 also provides important protections for clients of the PJC's Education Stability Project, which advances equity in public education by combatting discipline practices that disproportionately push Black and brown children, and children with disabilities, out of school. The threat and fear of immigration enforcement also impedes equitable access to school and infringes upon the right of all Maryland children to receive a public education regardless of immigration status. SB 828 is necessary to protect that right. In new [guidance on immigration enforcement actions at Maryland schools issued in 2025](#), the Maryland State Department of Education noted that various existing laws protect the confidentiality of student records and advised local school officials to cooperate with law enforcement and federal immigration authorities "in accordance with their school district policies and guidelines and in consultation with their attorneys." This guidance is insufficient to protect students and assuage their credible fears, particularly given the current climate in Maryland schools. For instance, in a [February 2025 social media post tagging ICE](#), an Overlea High School teacher stated: "If you want the names to investigate families to find illegals, let me know in dm [direct message]," . . . "I'll give names and school. All in Md." SB 828's clear mandate of a valid warrant issued by a federal or state court, and penalties for violations, is vital to ensuring student privacy and protecting the right of all children to attend school in Maryland.

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, **Public Justice Center urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

SB 828 - LOS.pdf

Uploaded by: Matthew Dudzic

Position: FAV

Letter of Support

Senate Bill 828 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act) *Judicial Proceedings Committee* *March 4, 2025*

As a part of our State of the Economy series of reports that analyze different aspects of Maryland's economy, last year we published a report that took a look at the role immigration has on our state's economy. It looked at how internationally-born Marylanders contribute to our economy, both as labor force participants and as an important source of spending.¹ Based on these findings, one thing is overwhelmingly clear: **Maryland cannot afford to lose its immigrant community.**

In a time when Maryland's overall civilian labor force has struggled, surges in immigrant labor force participation have helped to keep our economy afloat. Immigrants represent 17% of our population, but more than 21% of our civilian labor force, putting us well ahead of the national average and higher than any of our neighbors. In fact, between 2016 and 2022, nearly all of the growth to Maryland's civilian labor force came from internationally-born Marylanders.

The benefits of a strong immigrant community can be felt across every industry and in every corner of our state. Without these communities, almost every crab processor in Maryland would need to shut down, according to a 2020 survey.² Our already-overtaxed healthcare workforce would falter without the immigrants that make up a vital share of healthcare workers, including more than 24% of registered nurses and more than 55% of home healthcare aides.³ Similar impact would be felt in everything from the hospitality industry to STEM.

In addition to buoying our labor force, immigrants make significant contributions to our state's revenue and hold a tremendous amount of spending power. In 2022, immigrants in Maryland paid **\$5.3 billion** in state and local taxes, and contributed more than \$6 billion to Social Security and Medicare. Furthermore, they represented almost **\$37 billion** in total spending power.⁴

Of course, it is no accident that immigrants contribute so much to Maryland. We have worked hard to make our state a safe and welcoming home for international communities, and those efforts have seen great success. According to a 2022 study, two of the top five most welcoming

¹ Comptroller of Maryland. (2024 April). "State of the Economy Series: Immigration and the Economy." <https://www.marylandtaxes.gov/reports/static-files/research/immigration-economy.pdf>

² Maryland Department of Agriculture and Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industry Association. (2020 March). "Impacts of the H-2B Visa Program for Seasonal Workers on Maryland's Seafood Industry and Economy." <https://mda.maryland.gov/documents/2020-H2B-Impact-Study.pdf>

³ Migration Policy Institute. (2023 April). "Immigrant Health-Care Workers in the United States." <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/immigrant-health-care-workers-united-states-2021>

⁴ American Immigration Council. "Immigrants in Maryland." <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/maryland/#>



metropolitan areas for immigrants are in Maryland, with the Baltimore metropolitan area receiving the second-highest score in the nation.⁵ Keeping our immigrant communities safe and providing more pathways for immigrants to become lawful residents is vital to our labor workforce and our overall economy.

What this bill does: SB828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, helps protect our international communities in the spaces where they are most vulnerable. The Act designates schools, playgrounds, hospitals, places of worship, and other areas as sensitive locations, and empowers the Attorney General to develop guidelines to limit immigration enforcement at these locations to the fullest extent possible within state and federal law.

Why this bill is important: Immigration enforcement actions have broad repercussions that go well beyond our undocumented residents. If our international community cannot feel safe in the places where they worship, where they learn, or where their children play, many will choose to leave Maryland entirely. Such an exodus will have devastating effects on Maryland's economy. As we face down historic budget deficits, it is incredibly important that we build up and protect our immigrant communities. We simply cannot afford to do otherwise. Therefore, **I urge a favorable report on SB828**, and I applaud Chair Smith for his strong support of our international community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Matthew Dudzic, Director of State Affairs, at MDudzic@marylandtaxes.gov.



Brooke E. Lierman
Comptroller of Maryland

⁵ The George W. Bush Institute – SMU Economic Growth Initiative. (2022 December). “*Immigrants and Opportunity in America’s Cities.*” <https://gw bushcenter.imgix.net/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-and-Opp-3.pdf>

NILC Testimony in Support of MD SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Matthew Lopas

Position: FAV

Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828 – The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

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

The National Immigration Law Center (NILC) is pleased to offer our strong support for SB 828, which seeks to ensure that, to the maximum degree possible, Maryland residents feel comfortable bringing their children to school or day care, seeking disaster relief, health care and critical social services, visiting places of worship, exercising their rights to free speech, and securing access to courtrooms and other institutions at the core of civil society.

NILC is dedicated to defending and advancing the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their families. For over 40 years, NILC has focused on issues that affect the well-being and economic security of low-income immigrants: health care and safety net programs, education and training, workers' rights, and other federal and state policies affecting immigrants. We believe that all people should have the opportunity to reach their potential – regardless of their race, gender, immigration, or economic status.

For good reasons, longstanding federal policy has limited immigration enforcement activities in sensitive locations such as hospitals, schools, courthouses, and places of worship. This policy aims to ensure that children and families can participate in critical programs and services that protect individual and public health and safety. However, the recent [rescission](#) of the protected areas policy has generated fear and confusion among immigrants, educators, health care and social service providers who are concerned that their patients, students, and community members will be vulnerable to enforcement actions in places where they should feel safe.

The news already has discouraged some individuals from seeking medical care, pursuing education, securing critical services or engaging with law enforcement – placing public health and safety at risk. As we have seen in other contexts, the fear of seeking health care and essential services compromises the health of everyone in a community.¹ Drops in school attendance and anxiety about immigration enforcement disrupts the learning environment and affects the mental health of all students.²

¹ See, e.g. [Research Documents the Harm of Past Public Charge Policies](#) Protecting Immigrant Families (May 2023); [Mixed-Status Families and Immigrant Families with Children Continued Avoiding Safety Net Programs in 2023](#) Urban Institute (Aug. 2024).

² Kirksey, J. J., & Sattin-Bajaj, C. [Immigration Arrests and Educational Impacts: Linking ICE Arrests to Declines in Achievement, Attendance, and School Climate and Safety in California](#). AERA Open (Oct. 4, 2021).

What this bill would do is limited in scope: it would require the Attorney General to educate stakeholders and the public about existing Constitutional rights that exist in spite of the policy change from the Department of Homeland Security, and require those under the state's jurisdiction to invoke their rights on behalf of their patients, students, and clients. This bill is not in conflict with any federal law nor does it seek to create any new constraints preventing immigration officers from conducting enforcement actions beyond what already exists in established Constitutional law. Any agency that would be opposed to people knowing and exercising their Constitutional rights should be concerning to all Marylanders.

To protect the health and safety of their residents, at least one state, California, has enacted a law (SB 54, 2017) that includes language similar to HB 1006, and states like Illinois, Rhode Island, Georgia, and North Carolina have legislation pending this year. In a number of other states, such as Massachusetts, New York, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington,³ the Attorney General has issued guidance on limiting immigration enforcement activities in sensitive areas to the maximum extent possible, consistent with federal law. The guidance helps defend the constitutional and statutory rights of students, patients, health care and social service providers and faith-based groups. The guidance helps defend the constitutional and statutory rights of students, patients, health care and social service providers and faith-based groups.⁴

Because immigrants and citizens live together in families and communities, our health and well-being are interconnected. By ensuring that schools, health care and service providers, places of worship, and courts can focus on their mission, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act will strengthen the institutions that are central to a community's success. It will help protect access to essential services, permit children to learn, facilitate engagement with government agencies, and encourage residents to serve as witnesses or pursue remedies in court.

We therefore urge the committee to vote YES on SB 828.

Respectfully,

Tanya Broder, Senior Counsel
National Immigration Law Center

Matthew Lopas, Director of State Advocacy
National Immigration Law Center

³ See [Attorney General Guidance: Information for Massachusetts Healthcare Providers Regarding Immigration Enforcement and Access to Care and Assistance Programs](#) (Jan. 2025), [Joint Office of the Governor and Office of the New York State Attorney General Guidance to Private and Non-Profit Organizations and Entities](#) (Feb. 2025), [Guidance on Immigration Enforcement](#) (New Mexico), [Model Immigration Policies](#) (Oregon, Feb. 2025), [Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement](#) (Washington, April 2017).

⁴ [Rescission of Protected Areas Policies Undermines Safety for All](#) National Immigration Law Center (Jan. 2025).

Immigration Protection Feb 28 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Maureen Black

Position: FAV



Children's HealthWatch

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006

**HB 1006/SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 27, 2025

March 4, 2025

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

Children's HealthWatch is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of HB 1006/SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

I am a licensed psychologist and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. For over 25 years I directed an interdisciplinary Growth & Nutrition Clinic for children under 3-years-of age whose growth was faltering. We provided services for many immigrant families, often with children born in the US. I came to better understand the challenges and stigma that immigrant parents experience. I also served as a principal investigator of Children's HealthWatch. I can share many personal stories of families who were frightened to access healthcare, even when their children were US-born. As a child psychologist, I can also attest that children are excellent observers and when they perceive that their parents are worried or being traumatized or threatened, children themselves experience trauma and strong feelings of insecurity. It is critical that we ensure that children are safe and secure in schools, health centers, houses of worship, courts, and other sites where children and families should feel safe. In addition to my clinical insight, I will share some data from Children's HealthWatch.

Children's HealthWatch is a nonpartisan network of pediatricians, public health researchers, and children's health and policy experts from Boston, MA; Baltimore, MD; Little Rock, AR; Minneapolis, MN; and Philadelphia, PA. We are committed to improving children's health in America. We do that by collecting real-time data and interviewing families with infants and toddlers who are facing economic hardship in urban hospitals across the country. In Baltimore, we interview families who bring their young children to the University of Maryland Emergency

Department for health care. We analyze and share our findings with academics, legislators, and the public.

Our findings help policymakers and the public better understand the social and economic factors that impact children's health so they can make well-informed policy decisions that can give all children equal opportunities for healthy, successful lives.

Threats related to potential sanctions or deportation can affect immigrants' access and utilization of health care. To see whether rhetoric extends to health care for children of immigrants, we focused on the well-child visits recommended for children under 3-years-of age. Well-child visits are recommended for every child by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Well-child visits are critical for young children because children receive essential and screening for issues that can be prevented early in life (such as vision, hearing, language motor, and cognitive skills). We used electronic health records to compare children's well-child visits among over 7,000 families (half with immigrant mothers and half with US-born mothers). We targeted 2015-2018 to capture 2 years preceding and following Trump's election. What we found was startling! In the 2-year period prior to the election, there were no significant differences in rates of well-child visits between immigrants and US-born parents. However, in the 2-year period following Trump's election, there was a 5-percentage-point decrease in well-child visits among children of immigrant mothers (follow the red-line in the figure). This means that children of immigrants were less likely to receive the essential screening and vaccinations!

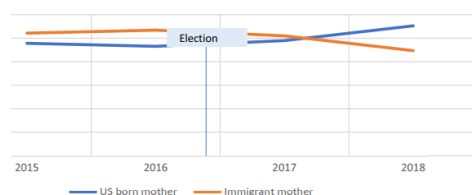
Since January 20, 2025, there has been a dramatic increase in threats to immigrant families that could be extremely unsettling to their children and may cause families to refrain from accessing the services that they and their children need.

Children's HealthWatch stands with immigrant children and families and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Families and individuals must be able to obtain food to nourish their families, drop off their children to school or child care, and worship without the threat of detention.

2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement and leads to children also fearing police, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.

3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant families and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.



4. **Safeguard Children's Well-Being:** Immigration enforcement conducted in places that are meant to provide children with a sense of safety and security can traumatize children. Children deserve to attend child care programs and school and receive timely, high-quality health care without fear that they will be separated from their loved ones.

Children's HealthWatch and I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

eactestimony2025.SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Megan Jones

Position: FAV

Education Advocacy Coalition

for Students with Disabilities

SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 828

Immigration Enforcement—Sensitive Locations—Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

MARCH 4, 2025

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, strongly supports Senate Bill 828, which would define “sensitive location” and require the Attorney General, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, to develop guidelines to limit immigration enforcement activities at entities operating at sensitive locations. The EAC particularly appreciates that among other provisions Senate Bill 828 defines “sensitive location” broadly to include schools, mental health and medical care facilities, places where children gather, including playgrounds, recreational centers, childcare and before and after-school care centers, foster care facilities, group homes, and school bus stops, and social services establishments, including facilities that serve people with disabilities, as well as courthouses, and food banks and pantries.

In 1972, the United States Supreme Court ruled that all children, regardless of immigration status, have the right to public education. *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202. Similarly, the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. §1400 *et. seq.* guarantees a free appropriate public education to all children with disabilities who need special education and related services in order to make educational progress. The IDEA stresses the importance of schools and parents working together to properly identify the needs of children with disabilities and to ensure that appropriate and effective instructional services and supports are provided by the school. The IDEA and Maryland law contain provisions about including parents at meetings, and these laws also require translation of documents and provision of interpreters at IEP meetings if necessary; ensuring that parents have the opportunity to be active participants in the IEP process is one of the cornerstones of both federal and state law.

However, schools are hampered in their effort to secure parental participation, and children suffer the consequences, if their parents do not come to school to participate in the special education process and work with school staff to help their children succeed because of their fear of arrest by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials on school grounds.

School should be a refuge for all children; it should be the place where they come to grow and learn academically, developmentally and socially. This is especially true for children with disabilities, whose parents have the right to help shape the special education they receive and

Education Advocacy Coalition Testimony: Senate Bill 828

March 4, 2025

Page Two

to participate as full members of the IEP team. Children and parents should not live in fear that the simple act of going to school every day might result in the trauma of arrest and separation simply because of how they arrived in the United States.

Because EAC members represent or work with families whose children have disabilities that may, and often do, require extensive medical treatment, ancillary therapies, counseling, behavior support in addition to other specialized services, the EAC particularly appreciates that Senate Bill 828 includes within its ambit all of the places where children receive these services. EAC members also appreciate that Senate Bill 828 includes playgrounds, before and after-school care facilities, bus stops, and other places at which children gather.

Families should be able to live their lives free from the fear that immigration officials will raid the places families need to be to ensure that their children with disabilities receive appropriate services and supports that enable them to be healthy, to be able to learn with their peers, and to lead meaningful lives in the community.

For these reasons, the Education Advocacy Coalition supports Senate Bill 828.

Contact: Leslie Seid Margolis at lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org or 410-727-6352, ext. 2505.

Respectfully submitted,

Selene A. Almazan, Selene Almazan Law, LLC

Rene Averitt-Sanzone, The Parents' Place of Maryland

Linda Barton, MSED, Education Consultant

Beth Benevides, Autism Society of Maryland, Co-Chair, Education Advocacy Coalition

Ellen A. Callegary, Attorney (Retired)

Melanie Carlos, xMinds (Partnership for Extraordinary Minds)

Stephanie Carr, S.L. Carr Education Consultants, LLC

Rich Ceruolo, Parent

Michelle Davis, M.Ed., ABCs for Life Success

Jennifer Engel Fisher, Weinfeld Education Group

Lisa Frank and Andrea Bennett, Special Kids Company

Beth Ann Hancock, Charting the Course, LLC

Kalman Hettleman, Independent Advocate

Morgan Durand Horvath, M.Ed., Abilities Network

Rosemary Kitzinger and Marjorie Guldan, Bright Futures, LLC

Ande Kolp, The Arc Maryland

Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland, Co-Chair, Education Advocacy Coalition

Monica Martinez, Martinez Advocacy

Education Advocacy Coalition Testimony: Senate Bill 828

March 4, 2025

Page Three

Beth Nolan, MAT, Education Team Allies

Sumaiya Olatunde, H2D Counseling

Ellen O'Neill, Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center

Ronza Othman, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Kate Raab and Nicole Joseph, Law Office of Nicole Joseph

Jaime Seaton, BGS Law, LLC

Karleen Spitulnik, Decoding Dyslexia Maryland

Ronnetta Stanley, M.Ed., Loud Voices Together

Guy Stephens, Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint

Wayne Steedman, Steedman Law Group, LLC

Maureen van Stone, Kendall Eaton, Genevieve Hornik, Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger
Institute

Jessica Williams, Education Due Process Solutions, LLC

Liz Zogby, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition

MCYD_Sensitive Locations Testimony-Support SB 828:

Uploaded by: Michael DeLong

Position: FAV



Testimony of the Montgomery County Young Democrats before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in Support of SB 828—Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

February 19, 2025

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

The Montgomery County Young Democrats (MCYD) are pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

The Montgomery County Young Democrats strive to further the aims of liberal progressivism with a particular focus on engaging and representing young voices in politics. Immigrants are a central part of our young community. [Nearly 40% of all recent immigrants to Maryland decide to settle in Montgomery County](#), with these individuals being [disproportionately more likely to have young children compared to the average resident](#). MCYD strives to make our community welcoming of all people, regardless of their background. I myself was born in Venezuela, and it was Maryland that gave my family and I a second chance after my nation of birth descended into crisis. Today, my family has the honor of being citizens, taxpayers, neighbors, and friends. It is our duty to leave the door of opportunity open for all, which is why it is a privilege to write testimony in support of this legislation.

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.

I cannot imagine my family debating whether to take me to the doctor out of fear of never being able to come back home. I cannot imagine my grandmother having to choose every Sunday between her allegiance to God and her own safety because she may be detained during her most intimate spiritual moments. I cannot imagine my brother being forced to sacrifice his education because he doesn't want to return to a country he has never consciously experienced before in his life. These are the choices that many of our fellow Marylanders are being forced to make—yet with this bill they won't have to make these decisions.

SB 828 requires Maryland's Attorney General to develop guidelines about immigration enforcement at these sensitive locations and requires state agencies that operate at these locations to adopt guidelines, to protect immigrants.

The Montgomery County Young Democrats stand with immigrant communities and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

The Montgomery County Young Democrats urge the Committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlos Hernandez Tavares". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carlos Hernandez Tavares

2025-02-25 SB828 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael O'Connor

Position: FAV



FREDERICK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Frederick
101 N. Court Street
Frederick, Md. 21701

Feb. 25, 2025

The Honorable Senator Will Smith
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate of Maryland
2 East Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chair Smith,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, which is a critical step in safeguarding the rights of individuals in our community to freely exercise their religious beliefs, pursue their education, and access essential healthcare services without the fear of interference from immigration enforcement agents.

As Mayor of Frederick, I know that the City must be a place where every individual, regardless of their background, can live without fear of harassment or discrimination.

The City of Frederick prides itself on being an inclusive and welcoming community—one where individuals are not only safe but are also empowered to participate in society fully. This bill is an important tool in ensuring that sensitive locations, such as places of worship, schools, healthcare facilities, and social service establishments, remain places of sanctuary. People should not fear being attacked or detained when they are seeking medical care, attending school, or practicing their faith. These are fundamental rights that must be protected, and Senate Bill 828 ensures that they are.

By limiting immigration enforcement in sensitive locations, we are reinforcing the values that make Frederick a thriving, compassionate city.

We believe in providing safety and security for all our residents—whether they are born here or have come from other parts of the world—and this bill exemplifies those values. It demonstrates our commitment to upholding the dignity and humanity of every person, while preventing the fear mongering that too often plagues immigrant communities.

The City of Frederick supports the passage of Senate Bill 828 and urges you and your colleagues to act in favor of the protections it provides. This legislation is a reflection of our shared belief in a just, fair, and

Michael C. O'Connor
Mayor



FREDERICK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Gayon M. Sampson
Chief of Staff

Marc DeOcampo
Director of Strategic Planning
and Executive Projects

inclusive society where every individual can access the services and protections they need without fear or prejudice.

Thank you for your leadership and for your dedication to the well-being of all Marylanders.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Connor
Mayor

SB828_MichelleMarkey_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Markey

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: 3/4/2025

Michelle Markey
Baltimore, MD 21211

TESTIMONY ON SB828 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Michelle Markey

OPENING: My name is Michelle Markey. I am a resident of District 40. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB828, Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.

I am a licensed social worker and therapist at Chase Brexton Health Care, where I provide mental/behavioral health support to medically underserved populations.

I believe it is critical that anyone who lives within our borders, regardless of immigration status, is able to access potentially life-saving medical and mental health care. Many of the people I see are children and youth, who are dealing with mental health issues such as trauma, anxiety, and depression. I have heard firsthand their fears of being separated from their families while trying to attend school or when going to obtain health care. Not only does the fear itself exacerbate existing mental health conditions, but as we know, having members of our population staying away from clinical facilities and foregoing necessary care puts at risk the health of the broader population. Furthermore, if people are to be subject to immigration action, at a minimum, this should occur in an orderly manner that respects their dignity and upholds their constitutional rights.

In a national context where leaders are attempting to remove these rights, I believe this bill would go a long way towards shoring up protection in Maryland for our immigrant neighbors, most of whom have been living peacefully in—and contributing to—our communities for many years.

I would like to reiterate my favorable position on this bill, which will protect the rights of all Marylanders to access life-saving care. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB828.**

Mazurek-SB828-Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Mazurek

Position: FAV

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.**

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAVSB828_.pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Zelaya

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

March 4th, 2025

SB828

**Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Judicial Committee
Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of **Senate Bill 828**. The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act seeks to establish clear guidelines and policies regarding immigration enforcement at designated sensitive locations to protect vulnerable individuals and uphold community trust. Under this legislation, the Attorney General is required to develop guidelines that ensure sensitive locations—such as places of worship, schools, hospitals, and courthouses—remain safe spaces free from the fear of immigration enforcement actions. Additionally, state agencies operating within these locations must adopt policies aligned with these guidelines or provide written notice explaining the decision not to implement such policies. This ensures transparency, accountability, and consistency in the protection of immigrant communities.

This legislation aligns with the principles of human dignity, solidarity, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. Immigrants, especially undocumented individuals, often face significant fear and uncertainty, which can deter them from accessing essential services such as healthcare, education, and legal assistance. By ensuring that sensitive locations remain accessible and protected from immigration enforcement actions, this bill upholds the dignity of individuals and fosters a society that prioritizes care over exclusion. Solidarity calls on us to stand with immigrants as brothers and sisters, ensuring they are treated with compassion and fairness rather than fear and marginalization. The Catholic commitment to the common good further reinforces the need for policies that build trust between immigrant communities and local institutions, rather than policies that drive individuals into hiding due to fear of deportation.

Senate Bill 828 benefits individuals, communities, and society by reinforcing trust in public institutions, allowing immigrants to access critical services without fear, and ensuring that enforcement actions do not disrupt essential community functions. It promotes public health and safety, as immigrants will feel safe seeking medical care and reporting crimes without fear of immigration consequences. Schools will remain places for learning rather than sites of trauma for

children worried about family separation. Additionally, the bill strengthens social cohesion by ensuring that all Marylanders—regardless of immigration status—can participate fully in their communities without the threat of unjust enforcement. In upholding justice and human dignity, this legislation reflects our collective moral obligation to protect the most vulnerable and foster a society built on compassion, trust, and fairness. Let's recognize humanity in every individual and acknowledge that living in fear is something no individual or family should face.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference urges a favorable report on **Senate Bill 828**.

Judge Blocks ICE Enforcement In Houses of Worship

Uploaded by: Molly Finch

Position: FAV

BREAKING: Judge Blocks ICE Enforcement In Houses of Worship

PRESS RELEASE FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Democracy Forward Filed Suit on Behalf of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Gurdwara Sahib West Sacramento, Six Quaker Yearly Meetings

Court's Order Blocks Enforcement In Plaintiffs' Houses of Worship

Greenbelt, Maryland – Today, the U.S. District Court of Maryland **issued an order** blocking the Trump administration's policy that enables immigration officials to enter houses of worship indiscriminately to conduct immigration enforcement operations. The order, which outlines the ways in which the Trump administration policy is likely to violate religious freedom and expression rights, applies to Plaintiffs' houses of worship.

The ruling came in response to a suit filed by Democracy Forward on behalf of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which consists of 1,400 churches in the Baptist denomination serving an estimated 750,000 individual Baptists, the Gurdwara Sahib West Sacramento, which serves 30,000 Sikhs, and six Quaker Meetings – the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Adelphi Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and Richmond Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

"For decades, the government has recognized that everyone – no matter their immigration status – should be able to attend houses of worship without fear of a warrantless government raid. Religious institutions should not have to go to court to fight for the right to worship and associate freely that is enshrined in our Constitution," **said Skye Perryman, President and CEO of Democracy Forward**. "Our plaintiffs represent a unique and diverse coalition of religious groups that have been at the forefront in protecting values of religious liberty for centuries. We are grateful to the court for acting to limit this unlawful and harmful policy."

"Today's ruling is a powerful affirmation of the values that have defined the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship—a steadfast commitment to religious liberty, local church autonomy, and the clear separation of church and state. For decades, our congregations have faithfully engaged in ministry among immigrants and refugees, offering a bold and courageous witness to the remarkable and relentless love of Christ. This decision affirms our effort to restore the sensitive location protections that have allowed our congregations to worship and minister freely. While our work continues, we celebrate this victory as a testament to the bold faith that rises from freedom rather than coercion," said **Rev. Dr. Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship**.

"The Court has taken an important first step today to protect freedom of religion for Sikhs and all people of faith to worship without the threat of arbitrary immigration enforcement and

surveillance. We stand with Democracy Forward and all of our allies in faith working towards a final determination that our Sangat and congregations across the nation may exercise their first amendment rights as intended by the founders of this great nation," said **Amar Shergill, Board Member, Gurdwara Sahib West Sacramento.**

"New York Yearly Meeting is grateful this injunction has been granted and that people who wish to worship with us can once again do so without fear of harassment or arrest by immigration agents. This injunction rightly reaffirms the constitutionally protected separation between church and state. We hope that all religious congregations will soon be granted similar relief," said **Steve Mohlke, General Secretary of New York Yearly Meeting.**

"For over 300 years, Quakers have been committed to the fundamental right of anyone and everyone to worship freely. Nobody should be afraid of attending a Quaker Meeting or any other house of worship. We are grateful that the court's decision reflects the importance of these core rights and will not let the government infringe upon them," said **Sarah Gillooly, General Secretary of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.**

"For over 300 years, Quakers have been committed to the fundamental right of anyone and everyone to worship freely. Nobody should be afraid of attending a Quaker Meeting or any other house of worship. We are grateful that the court's decision reflects the importance of these core rights and will not let the government infringe upon them," said **Sarah Gillooly, General Secretary of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.**

"Our country is strengthened by people of faith who love their neighbors, no exceptions. Today's ruling returns some of us to safely holding open the doors to houses of worship to all seekers, as our constitution guarantees. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting looks forward to the next step of removing the barrier of fear for all congregations," said **Christie Duncan-Tessmer, General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.**

The complaint is available here. The motion for a Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction was filed on February 4, 2025, and is available here.

- # # # -

Join us in this generational fight for people and democracy.

First Name	Last Name
Your Email	
Zip Code	

SB828_Protecting Sensitive Locations_QV_FAV.docx.p

Uploaded by: Molly Finch

Position: FAV

Bill Title: Protecting Sensitive Locations Act - SB828 (HB1006)
Position: SUPPORT (FAV)
To: Judicial Proceedings Committee
Date: March 4, 2025

Dear Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Erinn Camp Mansour with Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM), a faith-based advocacy group that advocates for policies that are just, compassionate, equitable, and respectful of the inherent worth of every person and the Earth upon which we live. Quakers across Maryland shared with us their concern for immigrant protections. QVM sees SB828 as an urgent priority in response to the recent rollback of the federal policy of protection for sensitive locations, like places of worship.

The Quaker experience of the Divine affects what we do in our personal lives, what we believe and how we work for changes in the wider world. “Testimonies” are what Quakers call the ways we have found to live and act based on our beliefs. We embrace the knowledge that all persons are children of the Divine and brothers and sisters of one another. **Our spiritual and social testimonies, including those of peace, community, integrity, and equality, lead us to submit this testimony for SB828.** In addition, a coalition of Quaker Meetings filed suit in a Maryland federal court to block the change in federal policy that now allows federal immigrant enforcement officials to enter houses of worship for immigrant enforcement action. Then, on February 24, 2025, the U.S. District Court of Maryland issued an order blocking the Trump administration’s policy that enables immigration officials to enter houses of worship indiscriminately. The order, which outlines the ways in which the Trump administration policy is likely to violate religious freedom and expression rights, applies to Plaintiffs’ houses of worship. We need additional protections..

The filed suit in federal court affirms the importance of state-level advocacy in Maryland to support passing emergency legislation this Session. SB828 directs the Attorney General to issue guidance limiting immigration enforcement access to schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, social services providers, and other essential spaces, and for state agencies to develop policies that enforce that guidance. For decades, it has been both the policy and practice of our federal immigration enforcement agencies not to seek undocumented immigrants at these sensitive locations. However, now that these protections have been rescinded and a policy of mass deportation has been initiated, clear guidance is required at the state level.

This bill will reduce confusion and help prevent unlawful entry and removal of our friends and family, parents and children, and the sick and vulnerable from these places. Members of the public who visit these essential spaces should be free from intimidation, discriminatory treatment, and interference with their constitutional rights to religious liberty. No one should be afraid to go to school, seek medical attention, or practice their faith because they lack immigration documentation. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. We urge you to issue a FAVORABLE report for this important and emergency legislation.

Sincerely,

Erinn Camp Mansour

Working Group Member, on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland

Organization email: quakervoicemd@gmail.com

SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locat

Uploaded by: Morgan Drayton

Position: FAV

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.**



CASA_FAV_SB828.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Ninfa Amador-Hernandez

Position: FAV



CASA Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive
Locations Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 4, 2025

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

CASA strongly supports Senate Bill 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. CASA is a national organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class: Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities.

With a membership of over 173,000 members, CASA creates change with its power-building model, blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of its members. For nearly forty years, CASA has employed grassroots community organizing and high-quality services that ensure families can access essential public benefits that provide basic necessities.

The Urgent Need for the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act is a crucial step toward ensuring unhindered access to essential services and spaces by limiting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in sensitive locations. This legislation affirms Maryland’s commitment to dignity, safety, and community by ensuring that all people, regardless of immigration status, can access healthcare, education, and critical resources without fear or intimidation.

For over a decade, federal policy¹ restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in sensitive locations—such as hospitals, schools, and more—to prevent intimidation and maintain access to critical services. However, as of January 20, 2025, these protections have been revoked², leaving immigrant communities vulnerable to enforcement actions in places where they should feel safe.

¹

https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

²

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/01/21/statement-dhs-spokesperson-directives-expanding-law-enforcement-and-ending-abuse>

This policy 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. The Trump administration has declared a massive escalation in ICE enforcement actions, creating widespread panic among immigrant communities—even beyond those who are undocumented.

The Impact on CASA and Our Community

As one of the largest multi-service providers in the state, CASA has had to alter our service delivery model in response to legitimate community concerns about possible enforcement actions at CASA facilities.

Previously, CASA was known for large-scale clinic-style service events that brought together staff and volunteers to provide critical services such as tax preparation, health screenings, and assistance with U.S. citizenship applications. Due to security concerns, these events have been significantly reduced in scope.

This chilling effect has been compounded by anti-immigrant rhetoric from the White House and highly publicized ICE enforcement actions. As a result, we have seen a decrease in participation in government services—including during the current tax season. Conversely, there has been a dramatic increase in demand for remote services such as our trilingual social services hotline (assisting individuals in navigating available resources) and our ICE Activity & Raid tip line (ensuring individuals know their rights and are connected to legal assistance).

Every day, we hear from immigrant families across the state who are afraid to visit a doctor, take their children to school, or even step outside for fear of ICE enforcement. If left unaddressed, these fears will lead to increased school dropout rates and lower vaccination rates, potentially undermining our entire public health infrastructure—as we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Reality of ICE Enforcement at Sensitive Locations

Through our Raid Tip Line, which serves the DMV region, we have gathered substantial evidence of ICE's enforcement tactics, including:

- Surveillance of individuals as they travel to work, attend events, visit courthouses, or drop their children off at school
- “Collateral” arrests of individuals with no prior criminal record—detained simply for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- Intelligence-gathering operations targeting community members engaged in everyday activities.

With federal restrictions lifted, ICE and other enforcement agencies now operate unchecked in

churches, social service providers, schools, and other critical spaces.

ICE Enforcement at Sensitive Locations In Maryland and Beyond

The impact of ICE enforcement in sensitive locations is not hypothetical—it is a devastating reality that has separated families, deterred individuals from accessing essential services, and created a climate of fear across Maryland and the nation.

We have already seen what ICE enforcement in sensitive locations looks like.

In 2017, Jesus Peraza was arrested near Hampstead Hill Elementary School in Baltimore City just moments after dropping off his ten-year-old son.³ Despite having no criminal record, he was detained and deported. His pregnant wife, nine months along, and their young son were left behind, their family torn apart. The arrest sent shockwaves through the community - this incident occurred even after the Baltimore City Council passed a resolution condemning ICE actions in sensitive locations⁴.

The fear ICE creates in sensitive locations is not limited to Maryland.

In Texas, two parents were arrested by ICE while bringing their infant son to a hospital for emergency surgery.⁵ A ten-year-old girl, Rosa Maria Hernandez, who suffers from cerebral palsy, was taken into ICE custody directly after undergoing emergency gallbladder surgery.⁶ A father in Los Angeles, Avelica-Gonzalez, was pulled over and arrested just minutes after dropping his daughter off at school, his 14-year-old child recording the encounter in tears⁷. And in Texas, a woman seeking a protective order from her abusive partner was arrested inside a courthouse⁸.

These stories are not anomalies. They are the inevitable result of policies that allow ICE to operate without restriction, spreading fear and discouraging people from engaging with critical services.

The Consequences for Schools, Courthouses, Faith Spaces, and Healthcare Facilities

The locations listed in Senate Bill 828 are not just buildings—they are lifelines that allow people to meet their basic human needs. Whether it is seeking medical care, attending school, practicing

³ <https://www.wbalv.com/article/baltimore-man-with-no-criminal-record-at-risk-of-deportation/9962078>

⁴

<https://baltimore.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2987706&GUID=52037C73-1A16-4115-9829-89A502526FE4&Options=&Search=&FullText=1>

⁵ <https://www.npr.org/2017/09/20/552339976/border-patrol-arrests-parents-while-infant-awaits-serious-operation>

⁶

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/10/26/a-10-year-old-immigrant-was-rushed-to-the-hospital-in-an-ambulance-she-was-detained-on-the-way/>

⁷ <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-romulo-avelica-deportation-20170731-story.html>

⁸ <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2017/02/15/ice-detains-domestic-violence-victim-court/97965624/>

their faith, or accessing the justice system, no one should be forced to choose between safety and survival.

Schools should be safe spaces for learning, yet ICE enforcement has led to absenteeism, learning disruptions, and increased anxiety among students. A Baltimore principal testified in 2019 that school attendance dropped following ICE enforcement actions in the area. When parents fear school drop-off could lead to detention, children suffer, communities suffer, and ultimately, our education system suffers.

Courthouses are critical spaces that should never be battlegrounds for immigration enforcement. Victims of domestic violence already face significant barriers when seeking protective orders, and the threat of ICE presence makes it even less likely that they will report abuse. When ICE targets immigrants in courtrooms, criminals and abusers are emboldened, knowing their victims are too afraid to seek justice. In Maryland, Attorney General Brian Frosh recognized this danger, joining a multi-state coalition in 2020 to halt immigration arrests at courthouses⁹. Even law enforcement officials have spoken out against this, recognizing that ICE arrests in courthouses actively obstruct justice.

Faith spaces have long been places of refuge, healing, and community. Historically, places of worship have been a safe haven for those in need, regardless of immigration status. But when ICE enforces removals outside of churches and religious shelters, it violates the sanctity of these spaces and prevents people from accessing spiritual support and communal care. Worshippers should not have to fear that attending a religious service could put them or their loved ones at risk.

Hospitals and healthcare facilities should be places of healing, not fear. Maryland has worked tirelessly to expand healthcare access, but ICE enforcement undermines these efforts. When patients fear arrest for seeking medical care, they avoid hospitals, leading to higher rates of preventable illnesses, lower vaccination rates, and increased public health risks for everyone.

The Need for Uniform Guidance

To date, CASA has conducted dozens of training sessions for hundreds of social service providers, teachers, and clergy members, all of whom are seeking urgent guidance on how to protect their communities from the devastating impact of immigration enforcement actions. While these trainings have been invaluable, they are not a substitute for consistent, enforceable policies that apply across all settings. **The need for clear, uniform guidelines is undeniable, and only the Attorney General's office can provide the authoritative direction necessary to ensure that schools, faith spaces, healthcare facilities, and courthouses remain safe and accessible for all.**

⁹ <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2020/011720.pdf>

Senate Bill 828 is about preserving the integrity of Maryland's institutions and ensuring that every person can access essential services without fear of being torn from their family. No person should have to choose between their safety and their basic needs. For all the reasons listed above, **CASA urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 828.**

Contact: Cathryn Paul, cpaul@wearecasa.org, 301-807-0788

Ramos SB 828 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Odette Ramos

Position: FAV



Odette Ramos

Baltimore City Councilwoman

District 14

(410) 396 - 4814

odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov

100 N. Holliday Street, Room 506

Baltimore MD 21202

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

February 28, 2025

FAVORABLE

Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to urge your support of **SB 828 Immigration Enforcement- Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies**, also known as the **Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**.

The objective of this bill is to require state agencies that operate at sensitive locations to implement policies that protect individuals by limiting the presence of immigration enforcement. Some of these sensitive locations include schools, place of worship, medical facilities, and all sites that provide social services.

According to the U.S Census Bureau and American Community Survey, immigrants make up roughly 16.7 percent of Maryland’s population. With ongoing ICE raids occurring all over the country, fear and anxiety are present in our communities. These raids are a threat to our immigrant community, especially to those who are undocumented. The ICE raids have caused members of our community to lose days of work, keep their children from attending classes, and stay in their homes due to the fear of potentially encountering immigrant enforcement.

The lack of protection in sensitive locations will result in drastic consequences, such as damaging our local economies, isolating our community members, and preventing individuals from seeking essential services. We cannot allow immigration enforcement to intimidate or unlawfully detain citizens in places that are meant to be secure. Immigrants are vital to the fabric of our community, and we must stand alongside them during this time.

The Baltimore City Council understands the importance of protecting our immigrant community. On February 24th, 2025, we unanimously approved a resolution urging the Maryland General Assembly to pass the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act and the Maryland Data Privacy Act, underscoring the substantial support for protecting sensitive locations. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to protecting the rights of every member of our communities and ensuring the safety of immigrants across the state of Maryland.

I implore you all to pass a favorable report for SB 828.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I can be reached by phone at 410-396-4814 or by email at odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Odette", is positioned above the typed name.

Odette Ramos
Baltimore City Councilwoman. District 14

SB828 Patricia Fanning

Uploaded by: Patricia Fanning

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB828

Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Since 2021, as a resident of Columbia, MD, I have been a part of an interfaith refugee ministry that helps resettled Afghan refugee families. These are people who worked with the Americans and had to flee when U.S. forces left Afghanistan that year. Some of our families have adult children, husbands, fathers, and other family and friends who are still trapped there, or in other countries. Changing policies here in the U.S. are making our new neighbors frightened for their families, many of whom remain in dangerous situations in or near their home country.

Our interfaith refugee support volunteers are also afraid for them, whether we are transporting them, introducing them to congregants in our houses of worship, or with them in other gatherings to provide services. Now that federal immigration policies have changed, and are changing almost daily, we are worried that our friends who made it here, to safety, will lose their legal immigration status and be ordered to go back. They could become undocumented immigrants.

Our new friends arrived with various forms of protective legal approvals and documentation from our government. Because many of them worked with the Americans in Afghanistan, they were threatened and harrassed by local authorities when we left. America promised to accept them. We promised they would be safe here, but it is unclear whether they will be allowed to stay or not. Military veterans who served in Afghanistan know better than most the spectrum of Afghan people who partnered with us there, including drivers, contractors, translators, lawyers, judges, officials, soldiers, teachers, doctors, and so many others. According to Shawn VanDiver, a military veteran and the president of #AfghanEvac, a nonprofit that helps people from Afghanistan resettle in America: "We made a promise to our Afghan allies, and fulfilling that promise is not just about policy — it's about honor and integrity."

Immigrants, those with current valid immigration documentation, and those without, deserve our protection. For many of us, it's a matter of faith. We simply don't turn away those in need. Our faith communities are ready to help, but we need our state legislators to help us. Please protect sensitive locations, including our places of worship, and issue a FAVORABLE report for SB828. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Patricia Fanning, member

Christ Church Interfaith Refugee Ministry

pgcma Support SB828 (1).pdf

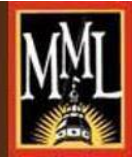
Uploaded by: Prince George's County Municipal Association

Position: FAV



Prince George's County Municipal Association

An Association of 27 Municipalities



Testimony Favorable SUPPORT for Senate Bill 828

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) writes on behalf of the 27 municipalities that collectively represent more than 955,000 residents, to share our strong support for Senate Bill 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. There shouldn't be a reason why our residents should fear being in the communities a place that is home, where they contribute through paying taxes, volunteering and more.

Prince George's Municipal Association (PGCMA) stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) urges the committee to provide a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 828

Sincerely,

Celina R. Benitez

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, President, Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA)

Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) members: Berwyn Heights, Bladensburg, Bowie, Brentwood, Capitol Heights, Cheverly, College Park, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, District Heights, Eagle Harbor, Edmonston, Fairmount Heights, Forest Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Landover Hills, Laurel, Morningside, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, North Brentwood, Riverdale Park, Seat Pleasant, University Park, and Upper Marlboro.

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines
and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**

Maryland Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

March 04, 2025 (SB 828)

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, (SB 828)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for SB 828, Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act). The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is pleased to see the Maryland State Senate undertake such critical action to protect immigrant children and families during a time where their rights and well being are actively under attack. With the rescission of the former Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Protected Areas Guidance, immigrant families are living with uncertainty and fear that has made them hesitant to seek out medical attention and critical services, drop off their children at school, and carry out everyday activities. Therefore we submit the following testimony in support of HB 1006 and SB 0828 titled, Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

Established in 1969, CLASP is a national, non-partisan, non-profit, anti-poverty organization that advances policy solutions for people with low incomes. Our testimony draws upon the work of CLASP experts in the areas of immigration, anti-poverty, and child development policies. As a national anti-poverty organization, we bring a deep commitment to families living with low incomes and knowledge of the challenges that they experience, including the importance of federal programs that support their health and economic well-being. At CLASP, we also have deep expertise in policies that support children's healthy development, such as promoting access to good nutrition, high quality health care and education, a healthy living environment, and stable, nurturing caregivers. We recognize that harsh immigration policies, such as increased immigration enforcement and the rescission of the protected areas policy, undermine these very foundations.

Without the protected areas policy in place, immigration agents will now be able to carry out enforcement actions in such places on a case-by-case basis, which our own research has shown can result in arrests near child care programs and schools. If Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence near such locations become more common, the likelihood also increases that children could witness a parent's detention, arrest, or other encounters with ICE agents.¹ Research shows that children who witness their parents' arrest are more likely to suffer

¹Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear: Immigration Policy's Effects on Young Children." CLASP. March 1, 2018.

severe impacts on their mental and physical health, negatively impacting their long-term development.²

Without this federal guidance in place, educators and other service providers are also left with confusion and uncertainty as to how to best protect the children and families they serve and what rights they have as providers. During the first Trump Administration, these providers reported being overwhelmed by the impact of anti-immigration rhetoric, the constant change in immigration policies, and heightened stress.³ Those who themselves are immigrants--such as the 1 in 5 early care and education providers--may also have additional concerns about their own families' well-being.

Ending the protected areas policy also has a destabilizing effect on entire communities. Children who witness threats to their classmates, parents, teachers, and care providers may not be able to thrive and meet developmental milestones. Many places that families and children rely on for community and friendship, such as schools, Head Start centers, child care programs, and places of worship, could suddenly become targets, leaving the community as a whole traumatized and paralyzed by the threats of immigration enforcement. Compromising access to these supports in the midst of an onslaught of other immigration policies serves to only further undermine the safety and well-being of immigrant families and communities. And when some of us are not comfortable seeking out health care, we all are less healthy.

Background and History of the Protected Areas Policy:

In 1993, under the Clinton Administration, Immigration and Naturalization services issued a memo restricting immigration enforcement in institutions of education, places of worship, funerals, and other religious ceremonies.⁴ This initial memo has been the foundation to helping create the policy over years, and has had consistent bipartisan support across Presidential Administrations. In 2008, under the Bush Administration ICE released additional field guidance that reaffirmed the 1993 memo.

<https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/our-childrens-fear-immigration-policys-effects-young-children-2/>.

²Chaudry, Ajay, Randolph Capps, Juan Pedroza, Rosa Maria Castaneda, Robert Santos, and Molly M. Scott. 2010. "Facing Our Future." Urban Institute. February 2, 2010.

<https://www.urban.org/research/publication/facing-our-future>.; Center on Developing Child. 2007. "InBrief: The Impact of Early Adversity on Children's Development." Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. May 20, 2007.

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief/inbrief-the-impact-of-early-adversity-on-childrens-development/>.

³ Matthews, Hannah, Rebecca Ullrich, and Wendy Cervantes. 2018. "Immigration Policy's Harmful Impacts on Early Care and Education." CLASP. March 1, 2018.

<https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/immigration-policy-s-harmful-impacts-early-care-and-education/>.

⁴ Puleo, James A. 1993. "Enforcement Activities at Schools, Places of Worship, or at Funerals or Other Religious Ceremonies." Immigration and Naturalization Service.

<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/IMM-Memo-SensLocationsEnforce.pdf>.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which oversees both Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), established policies that restrict immigration enforcement actions in certain “sensitive locations.”⁵ These locations included places of worship, schools, health care facilities, and early childhood programs such as licensed child care, preschool, pre-kindergarten, and Head Start programs.

In October 2021, DHS announced a new “protected areas” policy that replaced the 2011 policy.⁶ To clarify the policy, it included locations that were outlined in the previous policy but also added more locations (such as those providing social services and places where children gather, like playgrounds) and improved, consistent implementation. The 2021 policy also had the goal of restricting immigration enforcement actions at or near “protected areas” and went further, explicitly stating that, except in limited circumstances, immigration agents could not conduct arrests, apprehensions, or other enforcement actions in or near these locations. The policy also advised against enforcement actions near a “protected area” and advised the use of judgment as to whether such an action would “restrain people from accessing the area.”

- **What did the 2021 federal policy cover?**

- The policy stated that to the fullest extent possible, ICE should not take enforcement actions in or near a location that would restrain people’s access to essential services or engagement in essential activities. Except in limited circumstances, immigration agents should not conduct arrests, apprehensions, or other enforcement actions in or near the following locations:
 - A school, such as a preschool, primary or secondary school, vocational or trade school, or college or university.
 - A medical or mental healthcare facility, such as a hospital, doctor’s office, health clinic, vaccination or testing site, urgent care center, site that serves pregnant individuals, or community health center.
 - A place of worship or religious study, whether in a structure dedicated to activities of faith (such as a church or religious school) or a temporary facility or location where such activities are taking place.
 - A place where children gather, such as a playground, recreation center, child care center, before- or after-school care center, foster care facility, group home for children, or school bus stop.
 - A social services establishment, such as a crisis center, domestic violence shelter, victims services center, child advocacy center, supervised visitation center, family justice center,

⁵ Morton , John. 2011. Review of Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. October 24, 2011. <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

⁶ Mayorkas, Alejandro N. 2021. “Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or near Protected Areas .” Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Homeland Security . https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf.

community-based organization, facility that serves disabled persons, homeless shelter, drug or alcohol counseling, and treatment facility, or food bank or pantry or other establishment distributing food or other essentials of life to people in need.

- A place where disaster or emergency response and relief is being provided, such as along evacuation routes, where shelter or emergency supplies, food, or water are being distributed, or registration for disaster-related assistance or family reunification is underway.
- A place where a funeral, graveside ceremony, rosary, wedding, or other religious or civil ceremonies or observances occur.
- A place where there is an ongoing parade, demonstration, or rally.
- Exceptions were made - examples of such: enforcement action involves a national security threat, imminent risk of death, violence, or physical harm to a person, etc.

On January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration rescinded the Biden Administration’s guidelines for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection enforcement actions in certain “protected areas”, recommending that agents use “common sense”⁷ On January 31st, additional guidance from DHS was issued stating that Assistant Field Office Directors and Assistant Special Agents in Charge are able to provide prior authorization for enforcement actions on case-by-case basis in or near sensitive locations “either verbally or in writing.”⁸ Unfortunately, this guidance lacks clear guardrails to ensure that local field offices are consistently implementing the policy so as to mitigate the chilling effect and potential harm to communities.

Maryland History on ICE at Sensitive Locations

Several attempts have been made over the last several years to pass legislation to create guidance for sensitive locations in Maryland. This was a core provision of different versions of the Trust Act that was introduced over the last decade by Senator Will Smith and many other leaders. In 2019, Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins and Senator Nathan-Pulliam introduced standalone legislation. HB1273 and SB599.⁹ HB1273 passed in the House. In 2020, Attorney

⁷ Department of Homeland Security. 2025. “Statement from a DHS Spokesperson on Directives Expanding Law Enforcement and Ending the Abuse of Humanitarian Parole.” U.S. Department of Homeland Security. January 21, 2025. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/01/21/statement-dhs-spokesperson-directives-expanding-law-enforcement-and-ending-abuse>.

⁸ U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement. (2025, January 31). *Common Sense Enforcement Actions in or near Protected Areas*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.aila.org/library/ice-releases-memo-on-enforcement-actions-in-or-near-protected-areas>

⁹ Wilkins, Acevero, D. Barnes, Feldmark, W Fisher, Lewis, Palakovich Mosby, et al. 2019. Immigration Enforcement -Public Schools, Hospital, and Courthouse Policies.

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/bills/hb/hb1273T.pdf>.; Pulliam, Nathan . 2019. Immigration

General Frosh joined a multistate coalition fighting to halt immigration arrests at state courthouses without a judicial warrant or court order in and around state courthouses throughout the nation.¹⁰

In an amicus brief filed in *State of Washington v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; U.S. Customs and Border Protection; et al.*, the coalition argues in support of Washington State’s request for a preliminary injunction to immediately halt such arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).¹¹ In 2017, AG Frosh wrote a letter to DHS asking for secure location designations - that the Department designate Maryland’s courts, hospital emergency rooms, and schools to be locations where no enforcement activities will be conducted.¹²

Immigrant Families in Maryland

Maryland is culturally, linguistically, and ethnically diverse. Approximately 1 million immigrants—about 16 percent of the state population¹³—call Maryland home, and roughly one-third of all children in Maryland have at least one parent who was born outside the United States.¹⁴ The majority of immigrants in Maryland are from the Americas (41 percent) or Asia (30 percent).¹⁵

Enforcement – County Boards of Education, Public Institutions of 3 Higher Education, and Hospitals – Policies. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/bills/sb/sb0599F.pdf>.

¹⁰ Maryland Office of the Attorney General. 2020. “Attorney General Frosh Joins Multistate Coalition Fighting to Halt Immigration Arrests at State Courthouses.” Maryland Office of the Attorney General. <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2020/011720.pdf>.

¹¹ Amici States (Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and the District of Columbia). 2020. *State of Washington v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et al*, Case No. 2:19-cv-02043-TSZ. United States District Court Western District of Washington at Seattle.

¹² Frosh, Brian E. 2017. State of Maryland Office of the Attorney General. https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/News%20Documents/Homeland%20Security_Ltr_030117.pdf.

¹³ US Census Bureau. 2024. “U.S. Foreign-Born Population: 2019-2023.” Census.gov. December 12, 2024. <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/foreign-born-population-2019-2023.html>.

¹⁴ The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2017 and 2018 American Community Survey.

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. 2024. “U.S. Foreign-Born Population: 2019-2023.”

	Maryland	United States
Share of children with at least one immigrant parent	31%	25%
Total population of children	1,354,000	72,818,000

Source: The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2021 and 2022 American Community Survey.

The Case for a Protected Areas Policy

CLASP has worked for years to advocate for national, state, and local policies that ensure people are able to access the supports and services they need to thrive. Heightened immigration enforcement efforts undermine access to critical programs, putting families' health and well-being at risk, including for U.S. citizen children in mixed-status families. In light of the Trump administration's recent action to rescind the protected areas policy at the federal level, we urge states and local governments to consider legislation and advance protected areas policies and guidelines that restrict immigration enforcement actions in these critical places, such as Maryland's SB 0828 and HB 1006.

The Case for Guidance at Schools:

1. **Access to Education** - A basic education is critical for every child to be able to develop into thriving, productive adults. If a parent is afraid to drop off their child at school, absenteeism increases. A recent lawsuit by Denver Public Schools claims that the rescission of the protected areas policy has led to drop in attendance.¹⁶
2. **Fear and Trauma** - The presence of ICE agents has a psychological and emotional impact.¹⁷ The environment of fear impacts children, families, and the entire community - leading to diminished academic performance and long-term psychological effects.¹⁸

¹⁶ Riddell, R. (2025, February 14). *Denver Public Schools sues over Trump policy allowing on-campus ice raids*. <https://www.k12dive.com/news/denver-public-schools-sues-over-trump-immigration-policy/740145/>

¹⁷ Hacker, Karen, Jocelyn Chu, Carolyn Leung, Robert Marra, Alex Pirie, Mohamed Brahim, Margaret English, Joshua Beckmann, Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, and Robert P. Marlin. 2011. "The Impact of Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Immigrant Health: Perceptions of Immigrants in Everett, Massachusetts, USA." *Social Science & Medicine* 73 (4): 586–94. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2011.06.007>.

¹⁸ Gándara, Patricia, Lucrecia Santibañez, Jongyeon Joy Ee, and Julieta Rico. 2023. "The Impact of a Broken Immigration System on U.S. Students and Schools - UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools." *UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools - UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools*. December 5, 2023. <https://transformschoools.ucla.edu/research/the-impact-of-a-broken-immigration-system-on-us-students-and-schools/>.

3. **Learning Disruptions** - ICE enforcement can disrupt the educational process, including decreased attendance. A 2018 publication by the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research reported that zealous application of immigration laws causes school enrollment to drop and can set back the education of young people, including many U.S. citizens.¹⁹ The study found that Latino enrollment dropped nearly 10% in communities where local law enforcement collaborated with ICE.

The Case for Guidance at Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities:

1. **Ensuring Access to Care.** Maryland has positioned itself as a national leader in healthcare access, recognizing that this right is vital to maintaining a healthy and productive population in our state.²⁰ Allowing ICE to access hospitals and other healthcare centers undermines this progress, creating an environment where individuals without permanent immigration status will not feel safe getting the services they need.²¹ This includes particularly vulnerable populations, such as pregnant individuals or those with serious medical conditions that require regular treatment.
2. **Supporting Healthcare Professionals.** Allowing ICE enforcement in places where medical professionals are working is extremely disruptive to those environments - and may even cause healthcare professionals to be afraid to come to work. Maryland is home to a large number of healthcare workers who may themselves not feel comfortable coming to work in an environment that is subject to ICE enforcement, including those with DACA, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), or other forms of temporary immigration status.²² Chilling the ability of these professionals to do their jobs will place an additional burden on our healthcare infrastructure at a time when we can least afford it, as federal support for access to care diminishes.

¹⁹Dee, Thomas S. , and Mark Murphy. 2018. "How Strict Immigration Enforcement Harms Schoolchildren." Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR). Stanford University. October 2018. <https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/how-strict-immigration-enforcement-harms-schoolchildren>.

²⁰ Cathryn Paul. 2020. "Opinion: Why ICE Doesn't Belong in Hospitals - Maryland Matters." Maryland Matters. May 2020. <https://marylandmatters.org/2020/05/01/opinion-why-ice-doesnt-belong-in-hospitals/>.

²¹ Young, Maria-Elena De Trinidad, Sharon Tafolla, Altaf Saadi, May Sudhinaraset, Lei Chen, and Nadereh Pourat. 2023. "Beyond 'Chilling Effects.'" Medical Care Publish Ahead of Print (March). <https://doi.org/10.1097/mlr.0000000000001839>.

²²Institute for Immigrant Research. 2018. "Immigrants in Healthcare Occupations in Maryland Figure 1. Immigrants in the State of Maryland 2018 NUMBERS at a GLANCE." https://d101vc9winf8ln.cloudfront.net/documents/34917/original/Immigrants_in_Healthcare_Occupations_in_Maryland.pdf?1587658275.

Impact of Immigration Enforcement on Children

Fear of deportation casts a cloud of uncertainty and danger over common activities that affect immigrant families' ability to live their lives. This phenomenon restricting daily life—commonly referred to as the “chilling effect”—causes families to avoid seeking out basic necessities, from medical care to social services.²³ When immigration enforcement officers have the ability to show up at early education centers, healthcare facilities, playgrounds, schools, and places of worship, mixed-status families with children will not seek services in these places as often or stop going to these critical places altogether. In this current political climate, many providers and advocates are already reporting on this chilling effect and its impact on school attendance and academic achievement, child care attendance and participation, and delivery of timely health care.²⁴ Moreover, an environment of fear negatively affects children's emotional well-being, sometimes impacting their healthy development.

Early Care and Educational Impacts

The prospect of immigration enforcement authorities in schools and child care centers threaten the safety of both people who work to educate and care for children as well as children and their families. Overall, more than 1 in 8 workers in the U.S. education sector is an immigrant, or over 2.1 million people, and nearly 1 in 5 child care workers is foreign-born.²⁵ CLASP led a six-state study during the first Trump administration interviewing child care and early education teachers, among other providers, which found that these providers were struggling to support children and families who were under additional stress, including some who had experienced the detention or deportation of a parent.²⁶ Workers reported anxiety about increased incidents of racism and

²³ Xu, Qingwen, and Kalina Brabeck. 2012. “Service Utilization for Latino Children in MixedStatus Families.” *Social Work Research* 36 (3): 209–21. <https://doi.org/10.2307/42659834>.; Heinrich, Carolyn, Mónica Hernández, and Mason Shero. 2022. “Repercussions of a Raid: Health and Education Outcomes of Children Entangled in Immigration Enforcement.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 42 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22443>.

²⁴ Riddell, Roger. 2025. “Denver Public Schools Sues over Trump Policy Allowing On-Campus ICE Raids.” *K-12 Dive*. February 14, 2025. <https://www.k12dive.com/news/denver-public-schools-sues-over-trump-immigration-policy/740145/>; Mader, Jackie. 2025. “Parents Pull Kids from Childcare as Immigration Fears Hit US's Youngest.” *The Guardian*. February 7, 2025. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/07/us-immigration-childcare-workers>; Schorsch, Kristen. 2025. “Fearful amid ICE Crackdowns, Some Immigrants Are Skipping Health Care.” *Transcript*. NPR. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/nx-s1-5290063>.

²⁵ New American Economy. 2021. “Immigrants and the U.S. Educational System.” *New American Economy Research Fund*. August 16, 2021. <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/immigrants-america-educational-system/>; Ali, Umair, Jessica H Brown, and Chris M Herbst. 2024. “Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How Secure Is the Child Care Market?” *Journal of Public Economics* 233 (April): 105101–1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2024.105101>.

²⁶ Matthews, Hannah, Rebecca Ullrich, and Wendy Cervantes. 2018. “Immigration Policy's Harmful Impacts on Early Care and Education .” CLASP. March 2018.

xenophobia and were additionally concerned about the legal status of their own family members and friends. They were required to navigate complex immigration policies, provide mental health support to children, and inform parents about resources, all with limited time and money while still trying to do the day to day work of caring for and educating young children. The threat of immigration enforcement puts undue burden on those who work and care for all our nation's children.

Immigration enforcement impacts the child care industry as a whole. Studies have found that increased immigration enforcement mechanisms reduce children's participation in Head Start, center-based child care programs, reduce the supply and wages of immigrant and native workers in the center-based sector, and reduce the number of center-based facilities overall.²⁷ The decrease in center-based child care availability and participation means more children are pushed to lower-quality child care settings, which may slow their cognitive and developmental progress.²⁸ In essence, increased immigration enforcement can further destabilize an already precarious industry, threatening child care supply and increasing costs for all parents.

Additionally, there is robust evidence that heightened immigration enforcement results in decreases in K-12 school enrollment among Hispanic children and harms academic performance and engagement among minority students.²⁹ Following the 2019 Mississippi worksite raid, children were absent from schools for several days, with some families hiding in their homes for weeks with curtains pulled over their windows.³⁰ Providers in K-12 settings have reported that Latino students directly expressed fear and concern over immigration

<https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/immigration-policy-s-harmful-impacts-early-care-and-education/>; Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear."

²⁷Ali, Umair, Jessica H Brown, and Chris M Herbst. 2024. "Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How Secure Is the Child Care Market?" *Journal of Public Economics* 233 (April): 105101–1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2024.105101>; Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear."; Children Thrive Action Network. 2021. "Research Brief: How a Pathway to Citizenship Can Help Children Thrive - Children Thrive Action Network." Children Thrive Action Network. October 28, 2021. <https://childrethriveaction.org/2021/10/research-brief-how-a-pathway-to-citizenship-can-help-children-thrive/>.

²⁸ Ali, Umair, Jessica H Brown, and Chris M Herbst. 2024. "Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How Secure Is the Child Care Market?"

²⁹ Dee, Thomas S., and Mark Murphy. 2018. "How Strict Immigration Enforcement Harms Schoolchildren." Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR). Stanford University. October 2018.

<https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/how-strict-immigration-enforcement-harms-schoolchildren/>; Ee, Jongyeon, and Patricia Gándara. 2020. "The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the Nation's Schools." *American Educational Research Journal* 57 (2): 000283121986299.

<https://doi.org/10.3102/0002831219862998>; Bellows, Laura. 2021. "The Effect of Immigration Enforcement on School Engagement: Evidence from 287(G) Programs in North Carolina." *AERA Open* 7 (1): 233285842110394. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23328584211039467>.

³⁰Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Vanessa Meraz. 2020. "The Day That ICE Came: How Worksite Raids Are Once Again Harming Children and Families." CLASP. June 13, 2020. <https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/day-ice-came-how-worksite-raids-are-once-again-harming-children-and/>.

enforcement, negatively affecting their academic performance.³¹ In a survey of educators during the first Trump administration, one high school administrator said that children in immigrant families “are not thinking about college, or the test next week, or what is being taught in the classroom today. They are thinking about their family and whether they will still be a family; whether their family will remain intact.”³² Moreover, immigration enforcement impacts all students, not just those in immigrant families; researchers have found that absences affect overall school achievement scores and school funding, resulting in a “vicious cycle of underachievement.”³³

Impacts on Health Seeking Behaviors and Health

Even when the sensitive locations policy was in place, there were instances of ICE detaining immigrants visiting loved ones at hospitals or at a bus stop outside a hospital.³⁴ These actions serve to spread fear among immigrants and prevent them from enrolling in health care programs, including among children of noncitizens.³⁵ As a result, immigrants and their children delay obtaining health care which may exacerbate health conditions that could have been ameliorated or avoided altogether through preventive health care screenings. This results in increased complex health emergencies, increased emergency room visits, and increases in societal costs for uncompensated care.³⁶

During site visits conducted by CLASP in 2017, parents were scared to take their children to doctors or clinics for critical health services. For example, parents in rural Pennsylvania shared their reluctance to take their children to the emergency room at night because it was known that

³¹ Ruskin, Emily. 2020. “A Generation at Risk: The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on UnidosUS-Affiliated Classrooms and Educators.” UnidosUS. March 2020. <https://unidosus.org/publications/2024-a-generation-at-risk-the-impact-of-immigration-enforcement-on-unidosus-affiliated-classrooms-and-educators/>.

³² Ee, Jongyeon, and Patricia Gándara. 2020. “The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the Nation’s Schools.” *American Educational Research Journal* 57 (2): 000283121986299. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0002831219862998>.

³³ Ee, Jongyeon, and Patricia Gándara. 2020. “The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the Nation’s Schools.”

³⁴ Physicians for Human Rights. 2018. “Physicians for Human Rights Establishing Sanctuary Hospitals: Protecting the Right to Access Health Care Physicians for Human Rights Fact Sheet.”

<https://phr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PHR-Sanctuary-Hospitals-Fact-Sheet-FINAL.pdf>; Shepherd, Katie. 2017. “ICE Arrested an Undocumented Immigrant Just Outside a Portland Hospital.” *Willamette Week*. October 31, 2017.

<https://www.wweek.com/news/courts/2017/10/31/ice-arrested-an-undocumented-immigrant-just-outside-a-portland-hospital/>.

³⁵ Watson, Tara. 2014. “Inside the Refrigerator: Immigration Enforcement and Chilling Effects in Medicaid Participation.” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 6 (3): 313–38. <https://doi.org/10.1257/pol.6.3.313>.

³⁶ Mutanuka, Mambwe. 2020. “The Intersection of Health Policy and Immigration: Consequences of Immigrants’ Fear of Arrests in U.S. Hospitals.” *Annals Of Health Law Advance Directive* Vol 30 (1): 217-222.

<https://heinonline-org.prx.law.columbia.edu/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/anlsadced30&div=35&id=&page=&collection=journals>.

ICE patrolled the highway to the nearest hospital.³⁷ One worksite raid in 2018 in Tennessee occurred at the same time as a community health event, which meant that Hispanic families too afraid to venture out of their homes missed out on vaccinations, basic health screenings, and information offered to community members attending the event. Many Hispanic families subsequently stopped attending other health-related appointments with their children altogether.³⁸ With immigration authorities having zero limitations on where they can apprehend and arrest people they suspect to be in the country illegally, the likelihood that children will become isolated from the larger community and miss critical health care milestones like vaccinations and well-child visits is amplified, threatening the immediate and long-term health of children.³⁹

Impacts on Child Mental Health

Numerous studies demonstrate the connection of both the threat of immigration enforcement as well as the detention and deportation of a family member to adverse mental health, behavioral problems, and health issues for children in immigrant families. CLASP's 2017 six-state study found that children as young as three-years-old were expressing fear about losing a parent to deportation and demonstrating those fears through words and troubling behaviors; one child was described as biting his fingertips to the point of bleeding.⁴⁰ Even children whose parents have lawful immigration status expressed fear and concern about parent separation. Research consistently shows that hardship and distress in children's early years can particularly compromise their healthy development and growth in the short and long terms.⁴¹

After a Tennessee workplace raid in April 2018 detained 97 undocumented workers, behavioral issues and substance use among local Hispanic students increased, including among U.S. citizen children whose families were not directly involved in the raid. Substance use disorders

³⁷ Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear"

³⁸ Heinrich, Carolyn, Mónica Hernández, and Mason Shero. 2022. "Repercussions of a Raid: Health and Education Outcomes of Children Entangled in Immigration Enforcement." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 42 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22443>.

³⁹ Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear"

⁴⁰ Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear"

⁴¹ National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. 2010. "Persistent Fear and Anxiety Can Affect Young Children." Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. May 28, 2010. <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/working-paper/persistent-fear-and-anxiety-can-affect-young-childrens-learning-and-development/>; National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. 2007. "The Science of Early Childhood Development: Closing the Gap between What We Know and What We Do." Developing Child. 2007.

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/report/the-science-of-early-childhood-development-closing-the-gap-between-what-we-know-and-what-we-do/>; Shonkoff, Jack P., and Deborah A. Phillips. 2000. "From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development." PubMed. 2000. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25077268/>; Teicher, Martin H., Susan L. Andersen, Ann Polcari, Carl M. Anderson, Carryl P. Navalta, and Dennis M. Kim. 2003. "The Neurobiological Consequences of Early Stress and Childhood Maltreatment." *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews* 27 (1-2): 33–44. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0149-7634\(03\)00007-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0149-7634(03)00007-1).

during the raid year was 1.5 times above the average rate, while diagnoses of self-harm, suicide attempts, or suicidal ideation increased by 50 percent.⁴² Nearly half of U.S.-born Latino adolescents are concerned, at least some of the time, with the personal impacts of U.S. immigration policy (44%), family separation caused by deportation of a loved one (44%), and a family member being reported to an immigration office (41%). These adolescents are more likely to experience higher levels of anxiety, sleep issues, and adverse blood pressure changes.⁴³

The threats to children’s mental health have devastating consequences. More recently in Texas, news outlets reported the suicide of an 11-year old child on February 8, due to bullying at school about her family’s immigration status, including threats from peers to call ICE on her family.⁴⁴ Rumors about ICE coming to the school likely came after an email sent to parents that addressed President Trump’s new immigration policies, including the removal of the protected areas policy. Unfortunately, few mental health resources exist specifically for impacted children, and even fewer health resources overall that overcome language and cultural barriers. Research indicates, however, that providing access to legal status has a protective impact on children’s mental health. This bill could be a protective factor for children in immigrant families and mitigate the harm that unlimited enforcement poses.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we urge Maryland’s General Assembly to advance protected areas policies and guidelines that restrict immigration enforcement actions in these critical places, such as SB 0828 and HB 1006, in the wake of the Trump administration’s recent action to rescind the protected areas policy at the federal level.

Our testimony includes citations to research and documents for the benefit of the General Assembly in reviewing our testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact Suma Setty (ssetty@clasp.org) and Priya Pandey (ppandey@clasp.org) if you have any questions or need any further information.

⁴² Heinrich et al., 2022. “Repercussions of a Raid”

⁴³ Eskenazi, Brenda, Carolyn A. Fahey, Katherine Kogut, Robert Gunier, Jacqueline Torres, Nancy A. Gonzales, Nina Holland, and Julianna Deardorff. 2019. “Association of Perceived Immigration Policy Vulnerability with Mental and Physical Health among US-Born Latino Adolescents in California.” *JAMA Pediatrics* 173 (8): 744–53. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.1475>.

⁴⁴ Killough, Ashley, and Ed Lavandera. 2025. “Chatter and Rumors about ICE Went on for Days at School of Texas Girl Who Died by Suicide.” CNN. February 21, 2025. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/20/us/texas-ice-jocelynn-rojo-carranza/index.html>.

AEMS - FAVORABLE_ Senate Bill 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel McGrain

Position: FAV



SUPPORT: Senate Bill 828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations
Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2025

Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) writes **in strong support of Senate Bill 828**, Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

AEMS is a statewide nonprofit, committed to ensuring that all students in the state of Maryland have access to high quality arts education. **We envision a public education system** in Maryland that supports, cultivates, **nurtures, and uplifts ALL students' creativity** through a robust arts education experience so that they can thrive in a healthy society. We regularly engage with arts educators around the state to learn about their successes and challenges as well as support them through professional development opportunities.

Students and teachers who are part of **immigrant families are critical to the fabric of our arts and school communities**. These community members are dancers, musicians, artists, and actors who both enrich and are enriched by the arts in their school communities. As artists, we know the transformative power of multiple perspectives and collaboration; we must band together to protect all of our young artists so they can continue to learn through and contribute to the arts experiences that are so essential to our human experience.

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.

Through our network of educators, we have learned about **students not showing up for auditions and out of school time arts activities** for fear of immigration enforcement, regardless of the legality of their immigration status. This poses real **risks to the safety of our students** and to all students' ability to learn and work together in an ensemble; **when even one person is missing, everyone feels that loss**.

AEMS stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. **Children deserve to attend school without fear**, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

AEMS urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel McGrain

Executive Director

Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS)

rmcgrain@aems-edu.org

SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Shillenn

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of **District 45, and a parent of two kids in Maryland public schools. I am testifying in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

1

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

2

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Shillenn

5401 Elsrode Avenue Baltimore

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

2025.02.28 - Sensitive Locations - SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Reena Shah

Position: FAV

COMMISSIONERS

SB828

Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FAVORABLE

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- STAFF**
- Reena K. Shah**
Executive Director

The Maryland Access to Justice Commission (A2JC) is an independent entity that unites leaders to drive reforms and innovations to make the civil justice system accessible, equitable and fair for all Marylanders. A2JC is composed of prominent leaders from different segments of the legal community in Maryland – including the deans of the two law schools, the attorney general, law firm partners, heads of the legal services providers and funders, corporate counsel, academics, legislators, the state bar and judiciary. A2JC is a proud partner of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA).

A2JC supports SB828 and requests a favorable report. The bill simply requires the Maryland Office of the Attorney General to promulgate guidelines consistent with federal and state law that schools, hospitals and courthouses could use to develop their own policies to limit ICE enforcement on their premises.

This bill is needed on an emergency basis because of changes at the federal level.

Rescission of Federal Guidelines on Sensitive Locations Requires States to Act

A new executive order issued by the White House on January 20, 2025, rescinded the 2021 guidelines that limited Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) actions near sensitive locations. These guidelines, which were revised during the Biden administration, prohibited enforcement actions in places such as schools, places of worship, courthouses, and healthcare facilities, recognizing the chilling effect such actions have on immigrant access to justice, safety, and essential services.

The rescission of these protections, coupled with new directives from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) aimed at expanding enforcement authority, has sparked significant alarm in Maryland, where advocates fear that the rollback will discourage immigrants from accessing critical services and engaging with the legal system.

The 2021 guidelines, detailed in a memorandum issued by then-Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, emphasized the importance of safeguarding public trust and ensuring that immigrants could seek medical care, attend court hearings, or access other vital services without fear of arrest or deportation. By targeting protected areas, the guidelines sought to prevent the erosion of trust between immigrant communities and public institutions.

Without the federal government guidance, ICE now has free reign to arrest people in schools, hospitals and courthouses, among other places, which will instill fear among all immigrants and erode trust and services.

ICE Arrests in Courthouses Impedes the Rule of Law and Access to Justice

The issue of ICE arrests in state courts is an access to justice issue.

A separate 2021 memo, entitled *Civil Immigration Enforcement Actions in or near Courthouses*, provided additional guidance related to ICE activity in and around courthouses.

As a core principle, it stated the following:

The courthouse is a place where the law is interpreted, applied, and justice is to be done. As law enforcement officers and public servants, we have a special responsibility to ensure that access to the courthouse - and therefore access to justice, safety for crime victims, and equal protection under the law - is preserved. Executing civil immigration enforcement actions in or near a courthouse may chill individuals' access to courthouses and, as a result, impair the fair administration of justice.

A2JC has studied the issue of ICE enforcement in state courts and supports curtailing ICE presence and arrests in and around courthouses. A2JC conducted a survey in 2018 to study the scale and scope of ICE arrests in state courts, finding that enforcement in courts was:

1. impeding the ability of all Marylanders to access equal justice under law;
2. undermining the ability of the courts to administer justice fairly and efficiently; and
3. impacting public trust in the justice system and the rule of law.

In 2019, a detailed report by the Maryland Access to Justice Commission highlighted the chilling effects of ICE enforcement actions in courthouses. Between January 2017 and October 2018 alone, over 70 ICE arrests were reported in or near Maryland courts, with actual numbers likely much higher. These arrests occurred in courtrooms, hallways, and parking lots, often in public view, undermining the perception of courts as places of safety and justice.

The survey also demonstrated the ICE court arrests caused substantial collateral impact to Marylanders and the justice system as a whole. **Fear of going to court and interacting with the justice system was pervasive, highlighted by the finding that people were more fearful of going to court than interacting with law enforcement.**

A2JC's findings showed that the fear of encountering ICE at courthouses caused individuals to forgo pursuing legal remedies in a wide range of cases. Notably, hundreds of domestic violence and family law cases went unfiled because individuals feared deportation. For instance, 472 instances were reported where survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault did not seek protection orders due to ICE activity near courts. This erosion of trust in the justice system has wide-ranging consequences, not just for immigrants but for public safety and community well-being.

The report also found that ICE enforcement actions in courthouses created additional challenges for the administration of justice. Witnesses avoided testifying, opposing attorneys threatened to call ICE as a tactic, and detained individuals missed court appearances, resulting in bench warrants. These practices erode the very foundation of a fair and accessible legal system.

ICE Arrests in State Courts are Harmful and There is a Need for Guidance and Guidelines to Prevent Arrests

ICE arrests in courts are having a chilling effect and are freezing out many Marylanders from their opportunity to access justice. They are impeding the administration of justice and negatively affecting the public's perception of courts as a destination for justice. Our courts are one of the core foundations of our democracy and when people opt out because of fear of ICE, it hurts the rule of law and the promise of justice for all Marylanders. For this reason, there needs to be guidance on how state courts can prevent the harmful practice of ICE arrests in state courts.

For the reasons stated, the Maryland Access to Justice Commission requests the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a FAVORABLE report on SB828. For more information, please contact Reena K. Shah, Executive Director of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, at reena@msba.org.

Testimony in support of SB0828 - Immigration Enfor

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0828_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/19/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

TESTIMONY ON SB#0828 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ SB#/0828, Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

A core Jewish value for me is the commandment to care for the stranger which is mentioned more times than *any* other commandment in the Torah — more even than the command to love God (*v'ahavta*). According to the Talmud, Rabbi Eliezer the Great noted that "the Torah warns 36 times, and some say 46 times, not to oppress the stranger" (Babylonian Talmud, *Bava M'tzia* 59b). The decree is articulated in a number of ways: "You shall not wrong nor oppress the stranger, for you were strangers in the Land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:20). "The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens... for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34).¹

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. Frederick County is facing an increased level of fear in our immigrant community due to the presence of the 287(g) program proudly promoted by our sheriff. That same sheriff and his department have been sued and lost multiple cases for their overzealous policing of our county's immigrant population.

This bill would require the Attorney General to develop guidelines for immigration enforcement at sensitive locations. Given the current environment, we need a bill to protect vulnerable individuals and communities by limiting immigration enforcement activities at locations such as schools, medical facilities, places of worship, childcare centers, and other locations designated by the Attorney General.

¹ [https://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study/torah-commentary/commandment-love-and-help-stranger#:~:text=The%20decree%20is%20articulated%20in,%22%20\(Leviticus19%3A34\).](https://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study/torah-commentary/commandment-love-and-help-stranger#:~:text=The%20decree%20is%20articulated%20in,%22%20(Leviticus19%3A34).)

This revised Federal policy 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 a member of multiple organizations supporting our immigrant communities regardless of their documentation status, this is an issue of concern to me and those organizations. Among the organizations I work with are Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), the ACLU, and the RISE Coalition of Western Maryland.

These violations of the dignity and humanity of our immigrants goes against my faith and my personal commitment to those values.

I stand with immigrant communities and support this vitally needed bill, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.
4. **[Relieve some fears of] DACA recipients [who] are increasingly feeling more uncertainty** as the fate of the immigration program protecting them from deportation continues to be [challenged in court](#) — at a time when President Donald Trump is pushing his administration to carry out “[the largest deportation program in American history](#).”² The government might pursue the deportation of DACA recipients through misuse of the database containing their information and attempt to take them into custody in locations formerly off limits to that ICE intervention.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0828.

² <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/daca-recipients-trump-deportation-crackdown-dreamers-immigration-rcna191667>

BC - FAVORABLE_ Senate Bill 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Riya Gupta

Position: FAV



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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 19, 2025

The Blueprint Coalition, a 30+ member organization representing hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and co-led by representatives of Strong Schools Maryland and the Maryland State Education Association, dedicated to the full implementation and funding of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. **We strongly support Senate Bill 828**, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, because schools must be places of learning and growth, not fear and intimidation.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future lays out a vision for a world-class education system that supports all students, including those from immigrant families. But without clear protections ensuring that immigration enforcement does not take place in or around schools, we risk undermining the very goals of the Blueprint. Students cannot thrive academically when they are afraid to come to school. Parents cannot fully engage in their child's education if they fear that school drop-off or a parent-teacher conference could lead to detention or deportation.

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.

The revocation of federal protections for sensitive locations has already created fear among immigrant students and families. We have heard the nationwide news and directly from educators about students missing school or struggling to focus in class because they are worried about their parents. We have seen families hesitate to engage with schools - avoiding meetings, events, and even picking up needed services. This fear directly contradicts the Blueprint's focus on student well-being, family engagement, and creating a supportive learning environment.

By passing SB 828, Maryland can reinforce its commitment to ensuring that schools remain places of stability, safety, and opportunity for every student. **The Blueprint Coalition urges the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 828 to ensure Maryland's schools remain places of learning, not fear.**

Please contact Riya Gupta at riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.

2025 MOTA SB 828 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



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.

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828.pdf

Uploaded by: Roslyn Zinner

Position: FAV

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,

Roslyn Zinner is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

6 years ago my husband and I sponsored a Honduran family who were at the border without a sponsor. They lived with us for 3 years, then moved to their own place. The mom has been working for the school system as a teacher's aid and her 11 year old son is excelling in school. They are looking to buy a home. Other family members have since come to live here. They are vulnerable. This family is not a group of nameless immigrants, they are our family. And they are afraid, afraid to go to the ER when needed, afraid to report a crime they witnessed, worried about whether their children will be snatched out of school by ICE to never come home.

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.

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/ORGANIZATION **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

SB828_FAV_Briand.pdf

Uploaded by: Sindy Joya

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

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

I, Margaret Briand, am pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

For more than 25 years, I have worked with immigrant communities as a public school teacher of English to speakers of other languages (ESOL or ELD). More than 20 of those years have been in Montgomery County Maryland, where I now live and teach. Although many experiences have been hard, in particular the Covid pandemic and aftermath, Trump’s rescission of protected area policies is creating a climate of foreboding and fear that makes me very concerned.

Already, in mid-February, we are seeing attendance drop at our high school. Students have told me point blank they are afraid to come to school because they worry that ICE will be there. Today, a phone rang, and students all joked it must be ICE. The joke hides the fear. When students are learning in an atmosphere of fear, brain research and educational research shows that their achievement is stunted. Maryland teachers can be most successful when they teach in an environment in which students feel safe, where students can imagine themselves as part of a bright future.

The current national policies send a message that immigrants are “lesser than,” which could not be further from the truth. Immigrants add richness and value to our community. Every day, I learn about strength, perseverance, integrity and compassion from my students and their families. My life –all our lives – would be so much poorer without them.

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.

Imagine if ICE starts coming into school buildings. Students and staff will be in a state of panic. If some students are detained, others will stop coming to school at all. School days that rely on routine and structure will be disruptive and possibly violent. Many of our students are fleeing violence in their own countries. Others have lived through trauma abroad and here. The routine, predictability and calm of schools are crucial to student learning.

I stand with immigrant communities and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

SB828_FAV_Marjorie Ramirez-Quevedo.pdf

Uploaded by: Sindy Joya

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006

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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

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

I, Marjorie Ramirez-Quevedo, Spanish teacher for Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) in Maryland, am pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

As a high school teacher in MCPS, I witness firsthand the fear and anxiety that my immigrant students and their families experience every day. Many of them come from low-income backgrounds and have shared with me their deep concerns about ICE enforcement in places that should be safe—our schools, their places of worship, and healthcare facilities. Some students have told me directly that they and their families are afraid to attend school, go to church, or even leave their homes for basic necessities.

This issue matters to me because education should be a refuge, not a place of fear. Every child deserves to learn in a safe environment where they can focus on their future without the constant worry of being torn from their families. Schools are meant to be places of growth, not fear. When students are too afraid to attend class, their ability to succeed is compromised.

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.

I believe in the fundamental dignity of all people. No one should have to live in fear of seeking medical care, attending religious services, or sending their children to school. My commitment to protecting sensitive locations comes from both my role as an educator and my personal belief in justice and human dignity. The SB 828 bill is not just about policy—it's about ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our communities can live without fear in spaces meant to support them.

As a teacher and a member of the community I stand with immigrant communities and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must

be

able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.

2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I, Marjorie Ramirez-Quevedo, **urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.**

SB828_FAV_Sindy Joya.pdf

Uploaded by: Sindy Joya

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

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

I, Sindy Joya, a teacher at Montgomery County Public Schools, is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

I am currently a kindergarten teacher working at Montgomery County Public Schools. I work at a Title 1 school with a high immigrant population. A Title 1 school has a majority low income population which makes the school eligible to receive federal funds to ensure access to a quality education. Montgomery County Public Schools mission is “to communicate effectively and provide useful information that supports student success and connects MCPS to its diverse community.” As the mission states, regardless of one's background, the focus is to guarantee success for all students, including our students that are immigrants or who have family members that are immigrants. This may include providing support through resources, information, and materials to students who need it to guarantee academic, social, and emotional success. To add on, one of Montgomery County Public Schools core values is equity. With equity and success, we need to guarantee that our immigrant students and their families have a sense of safety at our school just as our non-immigrant students.

As an educator who grew up in an immigrant community, I am inspired to create a safe and inclusive educational space for all of my students, especially students who encounter stressful and out of the ordinary barriers. To ensure academic growth and success, a sense of safety is crucial, otherwise certain behaviors can arise that can prohibit students from focusing on their academics and overall school life. Growing up in an immigrant family, I loved going to school because I was able to socialize freely with my peers and grow as an individual in all areas. Essentially, it was my home away from home. I believe that every educator strives to create that sense of home for their students. If we strip that sense of safety and instill fear in the schools, students will no longer view school as a place they can fully be themselves.

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.

If immigration enforcement were to have access to sensitive locations such as schools, our schools would face a higher rate of chronic absenteeism which is when students miss 10% or more of their school days. With the presence of our immigrant community gone, their peers will be left wondering what happened to their close friends. Immigrant families will also be hesitant to provide support to the schools due to the fear of encountering immigrant enforcement. At my school, our immigrant families heavily provide support by being involved in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), volunteering to support teachers and classrooms, as well as plan and attend school events. Without the presence and support of our immigrant families, our events and how our school functions overall will be at stake.

As I mentioned before, the presence of immigration enforcement at schools will instill a sense of fear in our students which will most likely lead to an increase of emotional and out of the ordinary behavior. Many of our students already have to cope with stressors such as poverty and trauma. Adding a fear of being unwelcomed in a space they thought was safe would undoubtedly lead to emotional outbursts. With more stressors and navigating how to cope with these said stressors, our immigrant students will negatively be impacted academically since their focus will be centered around their safety.

I stand with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 82

SB828_FAV_TatianaQuintanilla.pdf

Uploaded by: Sindy Joya

Position: FAV

Bill: SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

Position: Support (FAV)

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Tatiana Quintanilla, MCPS teacher

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

Tatiana Quintanilla, an elementary school teacher for Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) in Maryland, I am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

As an elementary school teacher in MCPS, I witnessed firsthand the fear and anxiety that my immigrant students and their families experience every day. One example I can think of is a moment of fear that arose within the community when police reinforcements were out in the community, the calls ringing from all the neighbors warning to be careful, and warning each other to not go out alone. Additionally, living in the same community that I teach in has made me realize how normalized I have made it to always be on alert. As a student, I was worried for loved ones nearby and as an adult, I am worried for my students and their families.

This issue matters to me as I was born and raised in Montgomery County, before I even knew what legalization meant. I at least knew school was a safe space, the church was a safe space, and at the hospital, I could be safe when sick. Now, no child should have to feel anxiety, stress about whether they will get access to free public education without separation and or removal from the country that has raised them. No child should wonder if their loved ones will be handcuffed and removed for trying to seek medical attention.

The 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees citizenship to all people born or naturalized in the United States and protects citizens from *discrimination and arbitrary government action*. I believe ICE entering public spaces is discriminatory, how are they deciding which house of worship to enter, which schools, and what hospitals?

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.

The SB 828 bill is not just about policy—it's about ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our communities can live without fear in spaces meant to support all. We should not be able to segregate public spaces using Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

As a teacher and a member of the community, I stand with immigrant communities and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I, Tatiana Quintanilla, urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

SB0828.Support.Dolamore.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Dolamore

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 43A. **I am testifying in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Dolamore
3718 Yolando Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21218
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2011), https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029_2-policy.pdf.

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas*, (Washington, D.C.: DHS, 2021), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

SB828 Sensitive Loc OPD Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Wolf

Position: FAV



NATASHA DARTIGUE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

KEITH LOTRIDGE
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

HANNIBAL KEMERER
CHIEF OF STAFF

ELIZABETH HILLIARD
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

BILL: SB828 Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender

POSITION: Favorable

DATE: 3.4.25

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Committee issue a favorable report on SB828.

Courthouses must be safe for everyone if real justice is to be done there. If some Marylanders must fear that any appearance in a courthouse carries the threat of detention, family separation, and exile, they will be less likely to contest an illegal eviction; file a lawsuit when they have been wronged; testify – for either side – in a criminal case; engage with any of the valuable specialty court programs that we have across the state; perhaps even less likely to fight for custody or parental rights, if by doing so they would risk an even more insurmountable separation from their children. Our state is at its best and safest when we offer equal recourse to all who need the protection of Maryland courts, and fairness and accountability to those accused of breaking Maryland law.

Our noncitizen clients, and the other immigrants who come into contact with the courts, are children, parents, breadwinners, caretakers, neighbors, and parishioners. They are human beings trying to hold themselves and their families together, often in the face of great upheaval and uncertainty. Many left their homes, whether recently or many years ago, to escape a situation where interacting with institutions and authorities felt dangerous, and came to the United States hoping to live under the robust rule of law. Over the last several weeks, between the rhetoric of mass deportation and the reality of new immigration enforcement policies, our own institutions have begun to feel increasingly dangerous to our immigrant clients. I have received inquiries from Public Defenders around the state wondering how – and if – they can honestly reassure their fearful clients

that it is safe to appear in court. These inquiries came not only on behalf of clients facing criminal trials, but also on behalf of juvenile respondents and their parents; clients who wanted to pursue post-conviction relief based on constitutional violations, but worried it was too dangerous to risk attending a hearing; clients facing minor traffic cases; and more than one client who badly wanted the help they could get in drug or mental health courts, but were concerned about the risk of regular courthouse appearances.

Undocumented Marylanders are not the only ones who are afraid. Immigrants with many different statuses are expressing fear to their attorneys, including children with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Temporary Protected Status holders, those granted humanitarian parole. In addition to those examples of fear from people whose statuses are genuinely precarious, we have also heard asylees, U.S. citizen children of undocumented parents, and at least one Lawful Permanent Resident (“LPR” or green card holder) who had not been convicted of any crime, express fear of ICE in the courthouse. These examples of genuine fear from people who are not legally subject to an ICE arrest illustrate how the perception that courthouses are unsafe can spread throughout a community and broadly chill engagement with the legal system.

This bill is modest in its scope, but the statement it makes is meaningful. The Attorney General’s guidance would help institutions across Maryland protect their spaces to the fullest extent possible, while ensuring that they are acting within the law. This Assembly’s commitment to keeping courthouses, treatment centers, mental health providers, and other sensitive locations as protected as the law allows would be one important step in reassuring immigrants across the state that our legal system can be trusted to protect all of Maryland’s communities.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on SB828.

**Submitted by: Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division.
Authored by: Stephanie Wolf, Director of Immigration Services,
stephanie.wolf@maryland.gov**

SB 828 testimony March 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Steve Metalitz

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 4, 2025

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

I am pleased to offer a **favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

I am a 74-year-old resident of District 20 and have lived most of my life in Maryland. I am also the grandchild of immigrants, and an active member of a faith community that teaches us the importance of “welcoming the stranger” in our midst. Finally, I am an active volunteer with organizations that work with those who have fled torture and persecution in their home countries to seek asylum in the US.

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 sudden 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.

Because everyone should be able too access essential services without fear of detention or separation, and because public safety requires that immigrants feel safe reporting crimes and seeking help, there must be clear boundaries to immigration enforcement. Immigrants must be protected in the hospitals where they go to receive health care, in the courthouses where they go to seek justice, in the schools where they take their children to be educated, and in the churches and mosques where they go to worship in fellowship. In order to build trust, strengthen our communities and “welcome the stranger”, I urge the committee **to provide a favorable report on SB 828**.

Steven J. Metalitz

8007 Park Crest Drive

Silver Spring MD 20910

SB828_SusanAllen_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Susan Allen

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

TO: Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee

FR: Susan Allen, District 30A

3463 Rockway Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403, susanallen0@mac.com

Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) and Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT) are pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

I have visited many neighborhoods in Annapolis where families live who have recently arrived in Maryland and have started businesses and renovated run-down houses. These communities are along Forest Drive extension—many of you drive this road to reach the Capital—and in Eastport near my church. Some members of the family are citizens and some are undocumented. These new arrivals have started essential construction and landscaping businesses and have completely renovated run-down houses in their neighborhoods. Local businesses routinely hireworkers in the Forest Drive area. Without these workers, these small business owners cannot deliver services.

As you consider this Sensitive Locations bill, remember that the workers who died on the Key Bridge were undocumented immigrants. They gave their lives doing work that long-term residents of MD did not want to do.

Finally, I am personally afraid that my church and affiliate churches in downtown Annapolis will be entered by Federal Agents. Some of these churches would be targets because they symbolize our history

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.

JUFJ and ACT stand with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

JUFJ and ACT urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.

Respectfully, Susan Allen

SB828.pdf

Uploaded by: Susana Barrios

Position: FAV



SB828

February 28, 2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

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

The Latino Racial Justice Circle is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828- Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

Founded in October 2015, The Latino Racial Justice Circle is a community-based nonprofit organization that does not deliver direct services to individuals. Instead, we raise funds to assist families with viable pathways for immigration relief, pay for legal representation, and give small scholarships to college students who are ineligible for federal financial aid. Additionally, we facilitate conversations on immigration and civic engagement.

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.

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, the Latino Racial Justice Circle **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828.**

Susana Barrios, President
Latino Racial Justice Circle

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 0828.pdf

Uploaded by: Tali Stopak

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 0828
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Hearing date: March 4, 2025
From: Tali Stopak, Chevy Chase

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I live in District 18 and am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 0828.

I strongly believe that patients should be able to freely go to their health care providers, congregants should be able to worship and students should be able to go to schools without fear of intimidation. I work with Afghan refugees who were granted asylum and the turmoil of the recent revocation of federal protections limiting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in schools, hospitals, court houses and places of worship has created a situation of unneeded stress and tension in people's lives, even among people who are here legally.

This change 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.

Everyone should access essential services without fear of detention or separation. I therefore urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 0828.

Sincerely,

Tali Stopak

SB0828 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Theresa M. Hoffman

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 43b. **I am testifying in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act in Maryland aims to safeguard areas like schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement actions by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum limiting ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.¹ In 2021, a Biden Administration policy expanded the list of protected areas to include playgrounds, disaster relief locations, social services sites, and other sensitive locations.² These protections were designed to ensure that immigrants could access essential services without fear of deportation. On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. Trump's unilateral action aims to instill fear and anxiety in our communities, effectively blocking individuals' access to life-saving medical support, the exercise of religious freedom, the right to a public education, and the ability to safely participate in everyday life. In addition to reversing well-established ICE enforcement guidelines, Trump's action violates the protections that the Constitution guarantees to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Throughout Maryland, the Trump Administration's immigration policies are having immediate, critical, and devastating effects. Individuals and families are being forced to make exceptionally difficult choices between protecting themselves from the potential tragedy of deportation and accessing necessary care and services. In schools, empty desks speak to the fear that families feel when deciding how to keep their children safe. (In some cases—as a recent incident at Overlea High School in Baltimore County illustrates—children have reason to fear their own teachers will try to send ICE after them and their families.³) Under the new guidelines, individuals may not feel secure seeking critical medical care, putting their health at risk and impacting the overall health of our communities. **SB0828** would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the institutions, service sites, and sacred spaces that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. This bill would push back against policies that are designed to divide us, fracture our sense of community, and sow fear and distrust.

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (24 Oct 2011). Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations [memorandum]. Retrieved from <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (27 Oct 2021). Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas [memorandum]. Retrieved from https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

³ Stephon Dingle. (8 Feb 2025). "Baltimore County Schools investigating teacher over social media post allegedly to help ICE." CBS News/WJZ Baltimore. Retrieved from <https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/maryland-school-teacher-immigration-hispanic-students-ice/>

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0828 — Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Theresa M. Hoffman

803 Seaward Rd., Towson, MD 21286

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

2.28 SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive

Uploaded by: Tonaeya Moore

Position: FAV



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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 04, 2025

SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair, and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 828. This bill will develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at certain sensitive locations.

The CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than half earn less than \$20,000.**

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.

Our organization operates Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites at libraries, schools, and community centers, providing low-income families, including many immigrants, with free and reliable tax preparation and financial guidance. Recently, we have seen a decline in participation, as some clients fear visiting these locations due to the risk of encountering immigration enforcement. For many immigrant families, tax preparation is more than just a legal obligation, it is a vital opportunity to access financial resources like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC), which can help lift them out of poverty. If families are too afraid to visit these spaces, they lose access to support systems that help them achieve financial and educational stability.

Everyone should access essential services without fear of detention or separation. Public safety improves when immigrants feel safe reporting crimes and seeking help.

Thus, we encourage you to return a favorable report for SB 828.

Creating Assets, Savings and Hope

Health Care for the Homeless - SB 828 FAV - Prote

Uploaded by: Victoria Lee

Position: FAV



HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS TESTIMONY

FAVORABLE

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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 4, 2025

Health Care for the Homeless supports SB 828, which would require the Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at specified sensitive locations. The bill also requires State agencies that operate at sensitive locations to adopt certain policies or provide notice of a decision not to adopt certain policies with regard to immigration enforcement at their facilities in accordance with the Attorney General guidance.

The bill specifies certain sensitive locations, including health centers, but also includes important locations with services that are complementary to ours, such as homeless shelters, schools, and food banks. Importantly, the bill makes it clear that this list is not exhaustive, noting that sensitive locations will include “any other location deemed appropriate by the Attorney General.”

Rescission of Federal Sensitive Location Protection Policy

On January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration rescinded a longstanding policy that protected certain areas— known as sensitive locations—from immigration enforcement.¹ As a federally qualified health center, Health Care for the Homeless was deemed a sensitive location and, thus, protected under the former policy. Without these protections, immigration officials can now take broad enforcement actions in our health centers, leaving our providers and clients feeling vulnerable. Providers and clients report living in fear every day of immigration enforcement in our health centers.

Protecting sensitive locations from immigration enforcement is essential to ensuring all our community members can access basic services and support without fear. The rescission of the sensitive locations protections, along with all of the additional sweeping attacks on immigrant families by the federal Administration, has created unbridled fear in immigrant families. We see this fear play out every day with the clients we serve. Inevitably, the effect will be that people hesitate to receive necessary services for fear of deportation.

This bill will help combat the vulnerability our providers and clients feel by providing clear guidance on enforcement boundaries, building trust in our health centers and throughout our communities. Additionally, codifying the mandate for the Attorney General to issue guidance on sensitive locations will ensure that these guidelines remain in place, further providing greater certainty that our communities need.

¹ <https://www.nilc.org/resources/factsheet-trumps-rescission-of-protected-areas-policies-undermines-safety-for-all/>

Attorney General Guidance for Healthcare Providers

In January, the Maryland Office of the Attorney General issued guidance for Maryland healthcare providers regarding immigration enforcement activity.² The guidance included a statement of intent that “[t]he State of Maryland has an interest in ensuring that all residents feel safe and secure when accessing healthcare services. To advance this mission, and at the request of the Maryland Secretary of Health, the Office of the Attorney General offers this guidance for Maryland’s healthcare providers. The guidance aims to help providers prepare for the possibility of increased federal immigration enforcement operations at hospitals and other healthcare facilities.” While Health Care for the Homeless necessarily has in place strong protocols for any interactions with law enforcement or the legal system, this guidance was able to confirm the appropriateness of our protocols as well as send a clear signal to the health care community that we should put in place the broadest possible protocols to protect our clients. Further, standardization of protocols across all health centers is important for the provision of health care in the State.

For entities that would be covered as a “sensitive location,” not only would the Attorney General guidance provide them clarity on allowable policies to protect their clients or constituents, it would also provide the some level of protection for those entities instituting such policies. One main intention of the bill is to authorize sensitive locations to establish and publish policies that limit immigration enforcement on their respective premises to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and State law based on guidelines developed by the Attorney General. Without Attorney General guidance, entities may be inclined to take a more conservative approach in their policies regarding interactions with immigration enforcement for fear of non-compliance with the law. As such, entities may be less inclined to have broad policies limiting federal immigration enforcement compliance. Attorney General guidance will clarify the permissible protections those entities can put in place so that they feel confident in compliance with current law.

While Health Care for the Homeless must necessarily have robust protocols for interactions with any law enforcement as matter of compliance with a number of health privacy and confidentiality laws, many of the covered entities have never needed to consider interactions with law enforcement and would not know what to do. Those entities would need guidance on putting in place policies on immigration enforcement interactions. Further, because so many sensitive locations operate services that complement the services we provide and impact the clients we serve, guidance on how to provide the broadest possible protections in those locations will also benefit our clients and their overall health and well-being.

Since the bill also requires the Attorney General to consult with appropriate stakeholders in developing these guidelines, our hope is that the Attorney General’s guidance will contain the broadest possible interpretation of policies regarding actions of immigration enforcement in sensitive locations. We also hope that such stakeholders will be able to advise the Attorney General on the most comprehensive list of sensitive locations to be included in the bill.

Just as health care providers benefit from the guidance the Attorney General provided us in January, other sensitive locations will benefit from guidance specific to them as well. Immigrant families

² Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Guidance Memorandum, *Immigration Enforcement Activity: Guidance for Maryland Healthcare Providers*, available at https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/News%20Documents/012825_25_Healthcare_Guidance.pdf.

should be able to access services without fear that they will be apprehended by federal immigration authorities. Clear enforcement boundaries build trust, strengthening communities and institutions.

We urge a favorable report.

Health Care for the Homeless is Maryland's leading provider of integrated health services and supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. We deliver medical care, mental health services, state-certified addiction treatment, dental care, social services, housing support services, and housing for over 11,000 Marylanders annually at sites in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Our Vision: Everyone is healthy and has a safe home in a just and respectful community.

Our Mission: We work to end homelessness through racially equitable health care, housing and advocacy in partnership with those of us who have experienced it.

For more information, visit www.hchmd.org.

Testimony on Maryland Sensitive Locations Bill SB

Uploaded by: Viviana Westbrook

Position: FAV



**Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) testimony before the
Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings, SB 828
Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Submitted February 28, 2025
Position: Support**

“We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved. They are an occasion that Providence gives us to help build a more just society, a more perfect democracy, a more united country, a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community.” (*His Holiness Pope Francis, Messages for the 2014 and 2019 World Days of Migrants and Refugees*)

About CLINIC

As the nation’s largest charitable immigration legal services network, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (“CLINIC”) provides substantive legal and program management training and resources as well as advocacy support at state, local, and national levels. CLINIC serves over 400 affiliates organizations across 49 states and the District of Columbia, providing crucial legal services to hundreds of thousands of low-income and otherwise vulnerable immigrants every year. Embracing the Gospel value of welcoming the stranger, CLINIC cultivates projects that promote the dignity and protect the rights of vulnerable immigrant populations. CLINIC’s national office is in Silver Spring, Maryland. In serving our affiliate network and through our programming, CLINIC has particular expertise in the life-changing -- and at times life-saving -- role that access to representation makes in the life of an immigrant.

Position

CLINIC supports SB 828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. Part of CLINIC’s mission is to advocate for fair and just immigration policies that acknowledge the inherent dignity and value of all people. The former Protected Areas Policy was rescinded on January 20, 2025, allowing immigration enforcement actions to be held in areas that should have remained protected for the good of everyone.

This bill will allow the Maryland Attorney General, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, to develop guidelines around immigration enforcement in the locations that were formerly listed under the Protected Areas Policy. This is of particular importance because we do not wish to see

more of the chilling effects the rescinding of this policy has already had on immigrant communities accessing essential services.

Background on Protected Areas

- 1) 1993 Memorandum
 - a. The first variation of the Sensitive Location policy was enacted in 1993 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. It was titled, “Enforcement Activities at Schools, Places of Worship, or at Funerals or other Religious Ceremonies.”
 - b. This version requested that immigration enforcement needed to consider the following when trying to undertake enforcement at these locations: (1) alternative measures, (2) the importance of the enforcement, (3) ways to minimize the impact on the school or place of worship, and (4) whether the action was requested or approved by managers of the institution involved.
 - c. There were various iterations of this policy but it became more well-known by its 2011 iteration: the Sensitive Locations Policy.
- 2) 2011 Sensitive Locations Policy
 - a. In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a [memorandum](#) to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) around enforcement actions at or focused on “sensitive locations.”
 - b. Enforcement included arrests, interviews, searches, and surveillance related to immigration enforcement.
 - c. There were several locations that were identified as “sensitive”:
 - i. Schools (including pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools, post-secondary schools up to and including colleges and universities, and other institutions of learning such as vocational or trade school;
 - ii. Hospitals;
 - iii. Churches, synagogues, mosques or other institutions of worship, such as buildings rented for the purpose of religious services;
 - iv. The site of a funeral, wedding, or other public religious ceremony; and
 - v. A site during the occurrence of a public demonstration, such as a march, rally or parade.
- 3) 2021 Protected Areas Policy
 - a. In 2021, DHS replaced the Sensitive Locations Policy with the Protected Areas Policy. The name change came about in order to show the importance of offering protection to places that provide “essential services or activities.”
 - b. DHS was aware of the chilling effect such enforcement would have on immigrant communities. Because of this, the new policy also acknowledged that protection should also be considered for places “near” the protected areas, as the chilling effect could be the same.
 - c. CLINIC worked closely with DHS and a coalition of other organizations to make this expansion happen. We had heard about too many violations occurring in certain areas that were not originally included in the Sensitive Locations Memorandum. Because of this, CLINIC wrote and sent a [transition paper](#) to the Biden Administration about the importance of including more areas.
 - d. The expanded Protected Areas Policy, in addition to what was covered under the Sensitive Locations Policy, included:

- i. A medical or mental healthcare facility, such as a hospital, doctor’s office, health clinic, vaccination or testing site, urgent care center, site that serves pregnant individuals, or community health center;
- ii. A place of religious study and places of worship were expanded to include “a temporary facility or location where such activities are taking place;”
- iii. A place where children gather, such as a playground, recreation center, childcare center, before- or after- school care center, foster care facility, group home for children, or school stop;
- iv. A social services establishment, such as a crisis center, domestic violence shelter, victims services center, child advocacy center, supervised visitation center, family justice center, community-based organization, facility that serves disabled persons, homeless shelter, drug or alcohol counseling and treatment facility, or food bank or pantry or other establishment distributing food or other essentials of life to people in need;
- v. A place where disaster or emergency response and relief is being provided, such as along evacuation routes, where shelter or emergency supplies, food, or water are being distributed, or registration for disaster-related assistance or family reunification is underway;
- vi. A grave side ceremony, a rosary.

4) Exceptions to the Sensitive Locations and Protected Areas Policies

- a. Both policies had exceptions under which immigration enforcement could still arrest someone. These included (but were not limited to):
 - i. A national security threat;
 - ii. An imminent risk of death, violence, or physical harm to a person;
 - iii. The hot pursuit of an individual who poses a public safety threat;
 - iv. The hot pursuit of a personally observed border-crosser;
 - v. Imminent risk that evidence material to a criminal case will be destroyed; and
 - vi. A safe, alternative location does not exist.

Rescinding of the Protected Areas Policy

1) The Rescinding of the Protected Areas Policy

- a. On January 21, 2025, DHS issued a [press release](#) stating that the former policy was rescinded and that “criminals will no longer be able to hide in America’s schools and churches to avoid arrest.” Given all the previous exceptions that were already in existence for immigration to conduct enforcement at the protected areas, it begs the question as to why this policy was actually rescinded.
- b. The ICE website [indicates](#) that the new directive recognizes that “officers frequently apply enforcement discretion to balance a variety of interests, including the degree to which any law enforcement action occurs in a sensitive location. Going forward, law enforcement officers should continue to use that discretion along with a healthy dose of common sense.”

- i. Having a “common sense” approach does not take into account biases that people have. It did not sufficiently protect immigrants previously, and it will not protect them now.

2) Quote Responding to the Rescinding of the Protected Areas Policy:

“Catholic health care, Catholic Charities agencies, and the Church’s other social service ministries work daily to feed, house, heal, educate, and meet people’s needs in communities across our nation. Through these ministries—together with the Church’s responsibility to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the sacraments—we uphold the belief that all people are conceived with inherent dignity, reflecting the image of God. Through our parishes, shelters, hospitals, schools, and other Church institutions, we recognize that this dignity is not dependent on a person’s citizenship or immigration status. Moreover, the charitable services we provide are fundamental to who we are as Christians. ‘For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being’ (*Deus caritas est*, no. 25).

“We recognize the need for just immigration enforcement and affirm the government’s obligation to carry it out in a targeted, proportional, and humane way. However, non-emergency immigration enforcement in schools, places of worship, social service agencies, healthcare facilities, or other sensitive settings where people receive essential services would be contrary to the common good. With the mere rescission of the protected areas guidance, we are already witnessing reticence among immigrants to engage in daily life, including sending children to school and attending religious services. All people have a right to fulfill their duty to God without fear. Turning places of care, healing, and solace into places of fear and uncertainty for those in need, while endangering the trust between pastors, providers, educators and the people they serve, will not make our communities safer.

“Our organizations stand ready to work on a better path forward that protects the dignity of all those we serve, upholds the sacred duty of our providers, and ensures our borders and immigration system are governed with mercy and justice.”

Statement offered by Bishop Mark J. Seitz, Chairman, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, Sr. Mary Hadad, RSM, President and CEO, Catholic Health Association of the United States, and Kerry Alys Robinson, President and CEO, Catholic Charities USA

3) Lawsuits

a. Quaker Congregations

- i. On Jan. 27, 2025, various Quaker congregations filed a [complaint](#) against DHS because of the rescission of the Protected Areas policy. The complaint discusses how even seeing ICE officers parked outside a religious service

“deters congregants from attending services.” The suit argues that enforcement actions at or near religious services is a significant burden on the congregations’ rights of association and religious liberty.

1. As of February 24, 2025, a federal judge [ruled](#) that immigration agents are barred from conducting enforcement operations at the Quaker, Sikh, and Baptist congregations that are affiliated with the lawsuit.
- b. Jewish and Christian Faiths
 - i. On Feb. 11, 2025, a group of 12 national denominational bodies and representatives, 4 regional denominational bodies, and 11 denominational and interdenominational associations, all rooted in the Jewish and Christian faiths, filed their own [suit](#) against DHS because of the rescission of the Protected Areas policy. Their fundamental belief is that “Every human being, regardless of birthplace, is a child of God worthy of dignity, care, and love.”
- c. Denver Public Schools (DPS)
 - i. On Feb. 12, 2025, Denver Public Schools filed a complaint based on how it has been impacted by the rescission of the Protected Areas policy. It is seeking for the policy to be reinstated and for DHS to share its new policies with the public. In its complaint, DPS stated, “DPS is hindered in fulfilling its mission of providing education and life services to the students who are refraining from attending DPS schools for fear of immigration enforcement actions occurring on DPS school grounds.”

Problem

- 1) The Protected Areas Policy was rescinded and migrants are now afraid to access essential services
 - a. By the mere act of rescinding the Protected Areas Policy, the current administration has struck fear into the heart of migrant communities.
 - b. It does not even matter if enforcement actions are actually taking place in these locations because just the fear of such a thing happening is keeping people from attending their [worship services](#), going to [school](#), going to collect food at [food pantries](#), and so much more.

Solution

- 1) Have the Maryland Attorney General develop guidelines to limit immigration enforcement at the “Sensitive Locations.”

Action

CLINIC urges you to vote for SB 828:

- 1) **To ensure Maryland’s migrants feel welcomed within their communities and able to access these essential services.**
- 2) **To protect the places providing these essential services from wasting valuable time and resources having to respond to just the threat of immigration enforcement in their locations.**
- 3) **Because it reflects Catholic values of the equal dignity of all life.**

- a. Immigrants should be able to worship as they please, attend school, get medical help, seek assistance in times of crisis, and just avail themselves of a safety net that is already much more limited than others.

CLINIC appreciates your consideration and urges a favorable report for Senate Bill 828.

Testimony SB 828 Immigration Enforcement 2 19 2025

Uploaded by: Wendy Frosh

Position: FAV

Testimony SB 828 Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations
Judicial Proceedings Committee

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Committee members.

My name is Wendy Frosh, and I am here as a health policy consultant and a long-standing advocate for access to healthcare services. I also serve as a Board member for a Federally Qualified Health Center and for Planned Parenthood of Maryland. Both of these organizations provide a broad range of healthcare – from primary care to specialty services - often to individuals who face multiple barriers to accessing care. In both settings, our services are available regardless of an individual’s ability to pay and are provided in a culturally sensitive manner, to improve accessibility and compliance with treatment options.

The importance of protecting patients where and when they seek care cannot be underestimated. But when people feel that seeking care might put them and their families at risk, they often opt to skip the care they need. Timely care is essential not just to individuals, but to their families and ultimately to the communities where they live. The health of the community depends on the health of its residents, and delayed care can have deep and lasting impact. The increased burden of disease affects the vibrancy of our communities. Sick kids can’t go to school. Parents can’t go to work. And ultimately, that impacts the economy. If from no other lesson, we learned that during the pandemic.

We need to do our best to make sure that care is available when and where it is needed. SB 828 will help us protect our patients by increasing safety and privacy of those seeking care.

Thank you for your time.

Wendy Frosh

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828_HB 1006 - Google Do

Uploaded by: Yakie Palma

Position: FAV

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 24, 2025

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee

Yakie Palma is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

As a teacher in Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS), I am committed to creating a safe, supportive environment for all students, especially immigrants and refugees. PGCPS provides vital resources like language support, mental health services, and family engagement to help these students thrive. Having taught resilient students from Central America and the Middle East, I see firsthand their strength and determination despite immense challenges. As the child of immigrant parents, I know the importance of a secure, welcoming school. Students cannot succeed if they do not feel safe. That is why I advocate for protecting schools as safe havens, ensuring every child can learn without fear.

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.

Many of my students are from immigrant and refugee families who have fled violence, war, and poverty. For them, schools are safe havens, providing stability and essential resources. Immigration enforcement in sensitive locations like schools would create fear, disrupt learning, and keep families from accessing critical support. Parents may avoid schools, hospitals, or courthouses, deepening their hardship. No child should have to choose between education and family safety. Protecting these spaces ensures students can learn and thrive without fear.

As a teacher in Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS), I serve immigrant and refugee students who rely on schools as safe havens. ICE enforcement in or near schools would create

fear, disrupt learning, and prevent families from accessing vital resources like counseling, meals, and legal support. Many of my students have fled war, violence, and poverty—school is their one place of stability. If families fear deportation, attendance will drop, mental health will suffer, and engagement will decline, directly undermining PGCPs’s mission of equitable education. Schools must remain safe spaces where all students can learn without fear.

Yakie Palma stands with immigrant communities and supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

Yakie Palma **urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.**

D4CC Sensitive Locations Draft Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Zackary Berger

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: March 4, 2025



Zackary Berger, MD, PhD
Baltimore, Maryland, 21218
For Doctors for Camp Closure

TESTIMONY ON SB828 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

FROM: Zackary Berger, MD, PhD

My name is Zackary Berger. I am a resident of District 43A, writing as a representative of Doctors for Camp Closure in strong support of SB828, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act.

Besides my active involvement in Doctors for Camp Closure, I am a proud resident of the diverse neighborhood of Charles Village in Baltimore, which includes a number of immigrants. I am also a primary care physician who sees patients at a community center in Baltimore, many of whom are undocumented immigrants.

As a physician who treats the undocumented I see many patients who are terrified to be caught by the state when they are just trying to live a better life. They stop coming to the doctor, or to get lab tests, or to pick up their medications – even to send their kids to school or attend their house of worship! – lest they be picked up off the street and deported.

As I write this testimony I recall the patients I saw in my work day today, all trying to work hard for their families, but all terrified that a false move could jeopardize their lives. Government should help, not hurt. We don't need immigration police in every corner of our lives. If a person who has been alleged to commit a civil offense, like immigration against the law, is served with a duly executed warrant, it should be in a public space, not in a location like a school, clinic, or church where people want to pursue their most basic needs.

Doctors for Camp Closure is a local and national organization of healthcare professionals who believe in supporting immigrants for the sake of their health, the health of their neighbors, and the health of the entire country.

As our neighbors, immigrants deserve to be treated like anyone should be treated. Private, sensitive locations should be respected. Immigration police action should have humane and common-sense limits. I support the Maryland Data Privacy Act as a representative of Doctors for Camp Closure and hope the Committee will return a favorable report.

Zackary Berger, MD, PhD

sb828.pdf

Uploaded by: Will Vormelker

Position: UNF

HON. STACY A. MAYER
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill 828
Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and
Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
DATE: February 5, 2025
(3/4)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 828 to the extent it would apply to the Judiciary. Article IV, §18 of the Maryland Constitution dictates that the “Supreme Court of Maryland from time to time shall adopt rules and regulations concerning the practice and procedure in and the administration of the appellate courts and in the other courts of this State . . .” If made applicable to the Judiciary, this bill would be inconsistent with judicial independence and the Judiciary’s authority to regulate its own facilities and operations.

cc. Hon. William Smith
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O’Connor

2025_02_25 SB 828 Letter of Concern.pdf

Uploaded by: Tiffany Clark

Position: INFO

judicial warrant); California State Senate, S.B. 48 (2025) (proposing to prohibit public education officials in California from granting immigration enforcement agents access to a school campus without a judicial warrant).

Second, the bill purports to cover some private facilities, including places of worship. It is unclear what actions OAG would be expected to take with respect to such facilities. Any OAG rules purporting to “limit immigration enforcement” by federal actors at such facilities would raise serious questions under federal law. *See, e.g., United States v. King County*, 122 F.4th 740, 756, 758 (9th Cir. 2024).

Third, as currently drafted, the bill would require State agencies that are OAG clients to submit to OAG an “explanation of the[ir] reasons” for departing from the OAG guidelines. This requirement could have negative implications for the confidential nature of communications between OAG and its clients. If the bill retains its current form, we recommend deleting this requirement or specifying that the written explanations are not subject to disclosure under the Public Information Act.

The OAG urges the Committee to carefully consider the concerns outlined above as it deliberates this critical issue. The OAG is committed to working with the sponsor and the advocates on this bill to ensure Marylanders feel safe in these sensitive locations around the State. We have provided some amendments to the bill for the Committee to consider.

OAG Amendment to SB 828

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 18 on page 1 through line 11 on page 3, inclusive and substitute:

“(A) IN THIS SECTION, “SENSITIVE LOCATION” MEANS” ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL, PUBLIC LIBRARY, HEALTH FACILITY OPERATED BY THE STATE, COURTHOUSE, SHELTER, OR ANY OTHER LOCATION THAT PROVIDES STATE-FUNDED SERVICES RELATED TO PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS, EDUCATION, OR ACCESS TO JUSTICE, AND THAT, AS DETERMINED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, REQUIRES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

(B) (1) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH GUIDANCE REGARDING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AT SENSITIVE LOCATIONS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES ABOUT:

(i) THE LIMITATIONS ON FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AT SENSITIVE LOCATIONS; AND

(ii) THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESTRICTIONS ON A STATE AGENCY OPERATING WITHIN A SENSITIVE LOCATION TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAW WHILE MAINTAINING PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY.

(C) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025, EACH STATE AGENCY, PUBLIC SCHOOL, HEALTH FACILITY OPERATED BY THE STATE, COURTHOUSE, AND OTHER FACILITIES SHALL IMPLEMENT A POLICY ISSUED CONSISTENT WITH SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION.

(D) THE ISSUANCE OF POLICIES UNDER THIS SECTION IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARYLAND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT, TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 1, 2, AND 3 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.”.