

House Judiciary Committee  
**HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**  
February 27, 2025

The Esperanza Center is a comprehensive resource center whose mission is to welcome immigrants by offering hope, compassionate services, and the power to improve their lives. As part of Catholic Charities of Baltimore, for over 60 years we have welcomed immigrants from all over the world, and provide services related to education, health care, immigration legal matters, family reunification, and general community support. **From this perspective, the Esperanza Center supports HB 1006.**

**What does this bill do?**

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).

**Why is this bill important?**

- **Accessing protected places, like schools and doctor's offices, is a human right.** Protected places are locations that immigrants need to access for essential services without fear of deportation. It is based on a 2011 memorandum from the Department of Homeland Security that limited ICE's authority to conduct enforcement actions in and near locations such as schools, doctors' offices, and institutions of worship.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>
- **These places are no longer protected under the current presidential administration.** On January 21, 2025, President Trump eliminated these safeguards and authorized ICE enforcement activity in all previously protected areas. These actions effectively block 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. 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.
- **This bill would strengthen Maryland's commitment to protecting the places that keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving.** Every Marylander deserves to be able to go to school, seek medical care, and participate in religious activities. 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 HB 1006.**

Submitted by: Matthew Dolamore, Esperanza Center Program Director, MDolamore@cc-md.org

<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> 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](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf)