

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

## **Hearing before the House Judiciary Committee**

February 27, 2025

**Position: FAVORABLE** 

The Honorable Delegate Clippinger, Chair House Judiciary Committee

cc: Members, Judiciary Committee

Honorable Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland Fund (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights and equity for Maryland families through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

We are writing today to urge your strong support of HB 1006 - 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 organization that provides social services and assistance applying for necessary financial assistance, it is crucial that our clients feel safe seeking help from us when they need it. Over 17% of our clients for our older adult resources program (SOAR Program) are Latinx, and many more are immigrants from non-latin countries. In the face of uncertainty at the Federal level, we are calling on the Maryland General Assembly to protect our most vulnerable clients.



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, Economic Action Maryland Fund urges the committee to provide a favorable report on HB1006.

Thank you,

Zoe Gallagher

**Policy Associate**