

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

HB 1006 – Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies

(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

DATE: February 27, 2025

COMMITTEE: House Judiciary Committee

POSITION: Favorable

FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **HB 1006** – Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act) a favorable report.

This legislation would require the Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at sensitive locations and require State agencies that operate sensitive locations to either adopt these policies or provide a notice of decision to not adopt these policies.

As the federal landscape has changed, we have seen more intense and public immigration enforcement. While immigration enforcement is necessary, these practices can sometimes hurt those who are legal residents, and cause trauma to the community as a whole. My Administration will always follow the rule of law, but I encourage the State to look into ways to protect our residents and communities while following Federal immigration policies.

HB 1006 would assist in protecting our communities by designating sensitive locations and providing guidelines for immigration enforcement at these locations. A few of these sensitive locations include schools, places of worship, areas where children gather, social services facilities, medical facilities, and more. These locations are places where members of our community should feel safe to enter, not worried that a family member or friend may be detained, sometimes wrongfully, due to immigration policies. If community members do not feel safe to send their children to school, or seek medical or social services, our communities will suffer. Maryland is at its best when all our residents feel safe and able to participate in the community; this legislation will help to ensure that while providing public agencies with much needed guidance on this complex matter.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1006. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.

Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive

Frederick County, MD