

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1006**  
**Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies**  
**(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**

*House Judiciary Committee*

February 27, 2025

Maryland Hunger Solutions strongly supports HB 1006 – Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, which requires the Attorney General to develop guidance on the requirement for state agencies to adopt policies on the immigration enforcement of sensitive locations.

Maryland Hunger Solutions is a statewide, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to end hunger in Maryland by improving participation in federal nutrition programs. For over ten years, Maryland Hunger Solutions has provided application assistance to any Marylander applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We provide this service both in-person and over-the-phone, where our toll-free hotline receives 300-400 calls per month from Marylanders seeking assistance.

From these efforts, we have seen immigrant and mixed status families and households — even families with U.S. citizen members — face disproportionate obstacles to accessing federal nutrition as well as other social safety net programs that protect against food insecurity and the many root causes of hunger. In addition to these existing barriers, increased efforts focused on immigration enforcement have created an environment of heightened fear and confusion impeding access to the very programs that can help immigrants thrive. The anticipation of this increased immigration enforcement has contributed to a “chilling effect” on participation in vital nutrition and community programs such as SNAP, WIC, school meals, and food pantries.

HB 1006 will help to mitigate the impacts of this “chilling effect” by defining “sensitive locations”, which include schools, medical facilities and healthcare clinics, faith-based centers, childcare and recreation centers, social service centers such as food banks and shelters, as well as areas for emergency response or relief efforts. The guidelines proposed by HB 1006 reinforce the need to ensure safety, build trust, and maintain confidentiality in these spaces so that all individuals, regardless of immigration status, feel safe accessing services that are essential to improving their food security, nutrition, health, and well-being. HB 1006 upholds the basic human right to food and nutrition resources, which is paramount to addressing food insecurity and boosting the health and economic security of Maryland families.

Maryland communities are healthier and stronger when everyone has access to the support they need to thrive without fear. For these reasons, Maryland Hunger Solutions appreciates the Committee’s consideration and respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 1006.