



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1006

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

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 27, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee,

Arnolia United Methodist Church (UMC) in Parkville, MD is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

Arnolia UMC's mission is to follow Jesus, grow disciples, and serve others. Located in Parkville, MD we are connected to our community through the ministry of our Thrift store, our connection to the families of Oakleigh Elementary School, and other ministerial partnerships in sensitive locations. As United Methodists, our *Social Principles* root is in the value that all persons are of sacred worth and we follow the lead of our denomination through our *Book of Resolutions* by living out our ministry as a sanctuary church, committed to support immigrants and refugees.¹ As a congregation, we believe that all whom we worship with or minister to should be able to come to our building without fear, but instead knowing that they are seeking the source of Divine Love.

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 revocation of these protections already has the ability to lead people to be afraid to come to our services as the local police department already uses our parking lot at times for staging. So with the threat of ICE enforcement on our property, our neighbors may be afraid to come join us for worship or even at our Thrift stores. ICE enforcement could easily disrupt our sacred services and times of worship adding chaos and fear to a time that should be devoted to connecting with God's love for all of us. This interference directly impacts our ability to live out our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

¹ United Methodist Church, *The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2020/2024*, 1st ed (Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 2025), para. 163; Church, sec. 4276.

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, **Arnolia UMC urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 1006.**