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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 1006 Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations -  
Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

February 13, 2025

SUPPORT

**Background:** If enacted, emergency House Bill 1006 (HB1006) would require the attorney general to create guidelines for immigration enforcement at certain sensitive locations including places of worship and hospitals. This would safeguard access to essential services and spaces against immigration enforcement.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies and programs. Migration and immigration have been a central element of the Jewish experience since biblical times. The American Jewish Community has long advocated for fair and just immigration and refugee policies, in accordance with the biblical teaching to *welcome the stranger*. To that end, Maryland should be a welcoming state to those who want to be here. Those facing deportation are in a dire position and are often facing the prospect of having to leave a place they have called home for many years.

Sensitive spaces, including schools, medical facilities and places of worship should be safeguarded from certain immigration enforcement. All people, no matter their immigration status, should be able to access healthcare, education and religious spaces without fear of arrest or deportation.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB1006

*The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.*