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Judiciary Committee  
100 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

## **HB1006 – Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Ronnie L. Taylor, and I serve as the Advocacy, Policy, & Partnerships Director at FreeState Justice, a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing legal and systemic inequities affecting Maryland's LGBTQIA+ community. I am here to testify in strong support of **HB1006**, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, which aims to establish guidelines limiting immigration enforcement at sensitive locations throughout Maryland.

**HB1006** addresses the critical issue of immigration enforcement in areas deemed sensitive, such as schools, medical facilities, places of worship, and social service establishments. The presence of immigration enforcement in these locations has been shown to deter individuals from accessing essential services, leading to adverse outcomes for marginalized communities, including LGBTQIA+ individuals. Research indicates that policies permitting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in sensitive locations result in increased fear and avoidance of necessary services among immigrant populations.

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act mandates the Attorney General to develop guidelines that restrict immigration enforcement activities at designated sensitive locations, including:

1. **Educational Institutions:** Schools and universities should be safe spaces for learning. Immigration enforcement on these premises disrupts the educational environment and instills fear among students and families.

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2. **Healthcare Facilities:** Access to medical and mental health services is vital. Enforcement actions in these settings deter individuals from seeking care, exacerbating health disparities.
3. **Places of Worship:** These are sanctuaries for spiritual support. Enforcement in religious spaces infringes upon religious freedoms and deters community participation.
4. **Social Services Establishments:** Facilities providing essential services, such as shelters and food banks, are critical for vulnerable populations. Enforcement presence here discourages individuals from accessing necessary support.

By implementing these guidelines, **HB1006** ensures that all residents, regardless of immigration status, can access essential services without fear. This is particularly important for LGBTQIA+ immigrants, who already face unique challenges due to their intersecting identities. Studies have shown that LGBTQIA+ individuals are more likely to experience discrimination and violence, making access to supportive services crucial.

In closing, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report for **HB1006**. This legislation not only addresses a critical gap in protections for immigrant communities but also reinforces Maryland's commitment to equity and inclusion. By limiting immigration enforcement in sensitive locations, we uphold the dignity and rights of all residents, ensuring that fear does not impede access to essential services.

Best,



Ronnie L. Taylor

**Sources:**

1. [Impact of Mass Deportations on LGBTQ People](#)
2. [How Police Entanglement with Immigration Enforcement Puts LGBTQ Lives at Risk - Center for American Progress](#)
3. [Advocates Rally Against ICE Enforcement at Sensitive Locations - NYC, Long Island, New York State | New York Immigration Coalition - Revision](#)