

Date of Hearing February 27, 2025

Thomas Kennedy
4002 Laird Place, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
kennedymedia@gmail.com

TESTIMONY ON HB# 1006 - POSITION: FAVORABLE Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Thomas Kennedy

OPENING: My name is Thomas Kennedy. I am a resident in District 18. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1006 Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

I am a member of the Policy Work Group of the Maryland Poor People's Campaign as well as being a member of the Coordinating Committee for the state. I am also a parishioner at St. John's Norwood Episcopal Church, in Bethesda/Chevy Chase where I also am a volunteer on the church's Racial Justice and Equity Committee. Participating in these ways, I continue to work on encouraging Maryland legislators to draft and implement laws that will strengthen our social safety net and protect those who are most vulnerable in our society.

As we face the next four years under the Trump administration, immigrant families are being targeted and vilified and are under greater attack than at any time in recent history. It is clear that this administration intends to do far more to harm immigrants than deporting "violent criminals only." The roundups that have begun are intended to sow fear and disrupt and divide communities. The sweeping mass deportation agenda and a range of xenophobic, often unlawful policies being promised, demand maximum effort to safeguard Maryland communities.

No one should. Hesitate to seek life-saving medical care, or attend school or church due to fear of immigration enforcement. This act would establish clear guidelines restricting ICE access to sensitive locations, including schools, hospitals, courthouses, places of worship, and other locations vital to the community.

My faith tradition teaches me that one of the most important duties we have to one another is to support and protect the most vulnerable among us. Given that charge, I believe this bill is crucial to ensuring the well-being of hard-working immigrants who want nothing more than the freedom to contribute to our communities and earn a path to citizenship that allows them live free from fear.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1006

Sincerely,
Thomas Kennedy