

2/26/25

Claire Landers, Baltimore County, 21209

HB1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies

(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

House Judiciary Committee

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

I am Claire Landers, a Maryland resident of Baltimore County, offering **favorable testimony in strong support of HB1006 the “Protecting Sensitive Locations Act”**.

Just weeks ago, in a Baltimore County Public School, a school employee repeatedly contacted ICE to identify immigrant students and offer assistance in their removal by ICE agents: As a Jew and a parent, I just could not help but feel that this educator would have been "employee of the month" in Nazi Germany's purge of Jewish students in the 1930's; it just takes my breath away to know that a BCPD teacher with such venomous character was using their position to access names of students in order to urge ICE to conduct a raid and deport kids.

I am a member of the Jewish community in Pikesville where I would wager every local Jewish family here established themselves via at least one ancestor who fled persecution and/or extreme economic hardship from Russian cossacks at in the late 19th-early 20th century, Nazi persecution in the 1930's, Holocaust concentration camps post-WWII, Soviet persecution in the 1970's-80's and Khomeini's Iran in the 1980's-90's. Due to antisemitism and rank xenophobia from many, many Americans. they most certainly were *not* always welcomed here by everyone.

Today's immigrants in Maryland are similarly fleeing dangerous, criminal regimes and extreme poverty in Central America, Mexico, Haiti and elsewhere. And they have become the backbone of the low-wage, hard labor service economy that Maryland businesses and individuals depend on: Immigrants prepare food and bus tables in our restaurants, provide child care for working families and nursing care for elders, they are the low-wage demolition and construction crews, they landscape lawns for homes and commercial buildings, they clean houses in the daytime and offices overnight, they process the chickens and seafood we serve for dinner...and more.

For over a decade, federal policy explicitly 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, our federal government targets immigrants to score political points for Trump’s own political agenda. An infinitesimal number of total immigrants in Maryland are “criminals”, yet our immigrant neighbors are repeatedly demonized *as a group* by MAGA leaders and their ethno-nationalist supporters.

Immigrant children, adults and elders deserve fundamental safety and peace of mind while they peacefully go about their day: whether as students during the school day and in after-school programming on school property, or as adults are patients in hospitals, or as families worshipping in their faith communities. Surely, in Maryland, we can take a firm stand that we here will protect our immigrant neighbors.

For all of the reasons above, I ask you to uphold our best collective values in Maryland and vote in support of HB1006.