February 25, 2025 The Honorable Luke Clippinger Chair, House Judiciary Committee Maryland General Assembly 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

## **Support for House Bill 1006 – Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Esteemed Committee Members,

At Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU), we know firsthand the fear and uncertainty that immigration enforcement at sensitive locations brings to our communities. We have heard the stories of parents afraid to take their children to school, of individuals delaying critical medical care, and of families hesitant to seek justice in our courtrooms due to fear of apprehension. House Bill 1006, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, is not just a policy measure; it is a necessary safeguard that will allow all Maryland residents—regardless of their immigration status—to access essential services without fear.

This legislation mandates the Attorney General to develop comprehensive guidelines that govern immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations. By doing so, HB 1006 ensures that education, healthcare, legal services, and religious practice remain protected spaces where individuals can seek help and support without hesitation. The bill also promotes transparency and accountability by requiring state agencies operating in these locations to adopt the prescribed policies or provide justification if they choose not to.

The impact of this bill cannot be overstated. We have seen children forced to skip school, patients missing necessary medical appointments, and survivors of domestic violence too afraid to seek protection. When fear of enforcement deters individuals from accessing these fundamental services, our communities suffer. HB 1006 will help rebuild trust between immigrant communities and public institutions, ensuring that everyone can participate fully in society without fear of being targeted.

MLU is committed to ensuring that our communities understand the protections offered by this bill and feel empowered to seek the services they need. Through outreach and education, we will continue advocating for policies that uphold the dignity, safety, and rights of all Maryland residents.

We strongly urge the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1006. Passing this bill is a necessary step toward ensuring that Maryland remains a state where justice, compassion, and inclusivity define our public policies.

Sincerely,

Carlos Orbe, Jr. Communications and Public Affairs Specialist Maryland Latinos Unidos corbejr@mdlatinosunidos.org