

HB1006_Ann Rubin_FAV
Feb. 25, 2025
Columbia, MD 21045
Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1006

Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)
Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee
February 27, 2025

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

I am pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

I am a co-chair of the Indivisible Howard County Immigration Action Team and chair of the Columbia Jewish Congregation Social Justice Committee. My Jewish values and family history of immigration inform my present involvement to help the undocumented community cope with multiple challenges. My Jewish values undergird my efforts to help the stranger, an injunction repeated over 30 times in the Hebrew Bible - because ‘you were strangers in the land of Egypt.’ My congregation meets in Oakland Mills Interfaith Center along with Columbia Baptist Fellowship, Bet Aviv, and St. John’s Evangelical Catholic Church. I am horrified by the thought of ICE agents entering our premises and how that could traumatize all manner of people attending the events of their worship communities.

For over a decade, federal policy limited Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I/CE) 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, the revocation of these protections has left immigrant communities vulnerable to enforcement actions in spaces where they should feel safe.

This shift has already created an environment of fear and uncertainty, discouraging individuals from seeking medical care, pursuing education, accessing legal resources, or engaging with law enforcement. As a result, our communities, public health, and overall safety are at risk.

Everyone should access essential services without fear of detention or separation. Public safety improves when immigrants feel safe reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear enforcement boundaries build trust, strengthening communities and institutions. For these reasons, **I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 1006.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Anna Rubin