

My name is Badger Martinez Fern. I am a student at Montgomery College in Montgomery County Maryland.

I implore you to pass the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (HB-1006).

Ever since Trump was elected, our immigrant community has been threatened. Although ICE has been in Maryland long before President Trump's latest presidency, we could count on federal guidelines that ICE officers would not show up on sacred grounds such as schools, places of worship, hospitals and other gathering spaces.

It is completely unethical and disgusting to violate these sacred spaces, which ICE officers can now go to in order to carry out arbitrary mass detentions.

Trump has outlined huge quotas for deportation and with these numbers its clear he's not just targeting dangerous criminals, but undocumented immigrants who are minding their business and are deeply cherished by their communities.

I live in Wheaton, MD. It is a wonderful town and that is due to our immigrant community. I cannot speak to anyone's legal status but let me be clear that I do not care. They are community all the same, and they deserve to feel safe to pursue education, go to school, go to the hospital for God's sake without worrying about being taken away to God knows where, leaving behind worried and grieving families. That is a completely traumatizing experience on its own, but targeting these sacred spaces is unnecessarily cruel.

If ICE has a warrant for a specific individual causing harm, that is one thing, but we cannot stand by and let Trump carry out his mass deportation and detention plans in our state of Maryland.

We may not be able to resist all executive orders, but as Marylanders we can stand strong.

Trump may have taken the reigns off of ICE, but we can in turn pass legislation that sets the terms of their presence on our turf, and in our communities.

I implore you to pass the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act for our community, our friends, teachers, partners, spouses, children, who deserve to feel safe and welcomed.

Thank you for your time.