

Date of Hearing: February 27, 1:00 PM
Linda Rae Bergofsky
Poolesville, MD 20837

TESTIMONY ON HB1006 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

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

FROM: Linda Bergofsky

I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB1006, Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

By way of background, I am a member of Oseh Shalom synagogue in Laurel, MD and serve as the chair of its Social Justice committee. I am also a substitute teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools and an ally of CASA, through which I advocate for protecting the rights and privacy of my immigrant neighbors. I'm writing to urge you to support HB1006 in order to safeguard access to essential services and spaces by limiting ICE activities at sensitive locations. This legislation affirms Maryland's commitment to dignity, safety, and community by ensuring that all people, regardless of immigration status, can access healthcare, spiritual care, education, and critical resources without fear or intimidation.

The Trump Administration has shown its contempt for all of us by revoking protections that keep ICE from targeting sensitive locations. Without state-level legislation, our synagogue and the day care center it houses can be targeted by rampant immigration enforcement, terrorizing our members and guests and disrupting our communities. Maryland has an opportunity to lead with bold, humane policies that ensure no one must choose between safety and survival.

No one should hesitate to seek medical care, attend religious services, send their children to school, or seek safety due to the fear of family separation. Everyone in my very diverse county is safer when immigrant communities are encouraged to report crimes and participate in legal processes. In fact, the Montgomery County Council just passed the U-Visa bill as a sign of its commitment to immigrant safety.

Maryland has always welcomed immigrants, including my family who came to Baltimore at the end of the 19th century having escaped pogroms in Russia. HB1006 is an emergency bill that is required because of the exigent circumstances we face from an immoral and out-of-control Federal war against immigrants. **I stand with my immigrant neighbors and I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1006.**