

**HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**

February 27, 2025

Judiciary Committee

Favorable Report

Greetings, Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Katherine Kindy. I'm a social work student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Social Work. I'm currently interning at a community based health center that offers comprehensive primary care, management of chronic diseases, and behavioral health services to low-income people who are Medicare/Medicaid enrolled, underinsured, or uninsured. To protect the clients and the agency with whom I work, I, Katherine Kindy, testify in support of HB 1006 Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act would direct the Maryland Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigrant enforcement at sensitive locations such as medical and mental health facilities, social service agencies, schools, religious institutions, and more. On January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration ended a policy that previously protected sensitive locations from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations. This change has allowed ICE to conduct arrests in places where vulnerable individuals, including undocumented immigrants, seek essential services. Is it vital that the Maryland General Assembly acts quickly to limit immigration enforcement at sensitive locations to protect Maryland residents, and prioritize their health and well-being.

Both documented and undocumented immigrants are known to delay mental and physical healthcare due to fear of detainment. Studies have shown that increased ICE activity near sensitive locations correlates with decreased healthcare utilization among immigrant communities.¹ In one study, patients with tuberculosis delayed seeking care due to the fear of immigration enforcement, compromising both individual and public health.² Overall, the fear of detainment has detrimental effects on patients, the healthcare industry, and public health.

CommunityHealth, a free medical clinic in Chicago, reports that in the first two weeks of the Trump administration, nearly 30% of patients didn't show up or canceled their appointments

¹ Barajas JM, Roemer M, Peña J, et al. Barriers to health care for undocumented immigrants in the United States. J Immigr Minor Health. 2020;22(5):1096-1104. [doi:10.1007/s10903-020-01010-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-020-01010-9)

² Asch S, Leake B, Anderson R, Gelberg L. Why do symptomatic patients delay obtaining care for tuberculosis? Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 1998;157(4):1244-1248. [doi:10.1164/ajrccm.157.4.9709071](https://doi.org/10.1164/ajrccm.157.4.9709071)

without rescheduling.³ Currently, immigrants across the country are delaying necessary, lifesaving medical care and social services out of fear. As a social work intern in Maryland, I am witnessing this firsthand.

Both documented and undocumented immigrants already face significant barriers to care access. Without protections to sensitive locations such as healthcare facilities, organizations cannot ensure that clients are safe from the presence of immigration enforcement. In order for agencies across Maryland, to give our communities the care they deserve, the Attorney General must establish clear policies that restrict immigration enforcement at sensitive locations. These policies will increase trust in Maryland's undocumented and documented immigrants, leading to improved access to healthcare and a healthier Maryland overall.

I urge a favorable report on HB 1006.

Sincerely,
Katherine Kindy
Social Work Student

³ Schorsch, K. (2025, February 10). *Fearful amid ice crackdowns, some immigrants are skipping health care*. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/02/10/nx-s1-5290063/migrants-chicago-delayed-health-care-immigration-crackdown-fears>