



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

EVAN GLASS
COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, CHAIR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1006 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

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

FROM: Montgomery County Councilmember Evan Glass

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

It is my honor to represent the 1.1 million residents of Montgomery County, one of the most diverse counties in the United States. One third of our residents are foreign-born and have chosen to build a life here because we recognize that our diversity is our strength. Our immigrant neighbors are an integral part of our community and should be treated with the same dignity and respect that we extend to all Marylanders.

For over a decade, federal policy limited Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) 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.

I have already seen this fear impact Montgomery County. Families are facing hunger because residents are scared to leave their homes. Kids are missing school because they are afraid to come home and find their parents gone. Misinformation is rampant, and people don't know who to trust when they need help.

I am proud to have led the Uplifting Victims and Immigrant Safety Act, which has already enabled more people to report crimes to the Montgomery County Police Department without fear of deportation, but we must do more to meet this moment. I support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

1. **Protect Access to Essential Services:** No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of deportation.
2. **Enhance Public Safety:** When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
3. **Strengthen Community Trust:** By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I respectfully urge the committee to stand with our immigrant neighbors and provide a favorable report on HB 1006.