LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MARYLAND

TESTIMONY TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

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

POSITION: Favorable

BY: Linda Kohn, President

DATE: February 27, 2025

The public policies of the League of Women Voters are based on our constitutional rights, including the right to privacy, to health and safety, and the right to follow our religious or spiritual beliefs. The revocation of a previous executive order prohibiting immigration enforcement officers from searching sensitive locations such as schools, places of worship and hospitals has opened the possibility of agents entering these areas to take into custody persons that they feel may have entered the country illegally.

In transition to a reformed immigration system, the League supports provisions for individuals already living in the country without legal permission, to earn legal status. The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal, and right to humane treatment. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting these immigrants who have no history of major and/or violent criminal activity.

The League of Women Voters believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all US residents. Fear of ICE raids could keep undocumented residents from seeking healthcare. We also believe that making the needs of children should be a high priority of government. ICE raids where children gather could cause extreme trauma. Fear of ICE raids could cause parents to keep children out of schools, not seek health care, or isolate their children from other community activities.

Maryland should protect individuals in Sensitive Areas as defined by the Attorney General from any invasion of privacy. Sensitive areas should remain places of safety, help, and support.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland urges a favorable report on HB 1006.