

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 828/HB 1006
SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies
(Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

February 19, 2025

SB: Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I, Marjorie Ramirez-Quevedo, Spanish teacher for Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) in Maryland, am pleased to offer **a favorable testimony in strong support of SB 828/HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

As a high school teacher in MCPS, I witness firsthand the fear and anxiety that my immigrant students and their families experience every day. Many of them come from low-income backgrounds and have shared with me their deep concerns about ICE enforcement in places that should be safe—our schools, their places of worship, and healthcare facilities. Some students have told me directly that they and their families are afraid to attend school, go to church, or even leave their homes for basic necessities.

This issue matters to me because education should be a refuge, not a place of fear. Every child deserves to learn in a safe environment where they can focus on their future without the constant worry of being torn from their families. Schools are meant to be places of growth, not fear. When students are too afraid to attend class, their ability to succeed is compromised.

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 believe in the fundamental dignity of all people. No one should have to live in fear of seeking medical care, attending religious services, or sending their children to school. My commitment to protecting sensitive locations comes from both my role as an educator and my personal belief in justice and human dignity. The SB 828 bill is not just about policy—it's about ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our communities can live without fear in spaces meant to support them.

As a teacher and a member of the community I stand with immigrant communities and 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 detention.

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, Marjorie Ramirez-Quevedo, **urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 828/HB 1006.**