

Date of Hearing: February 27, 2025

Jo Shifrin

Bethesda, MD 20817

**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 Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Jo Shifrin

**OPENING: My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 1006, Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

A hundred years ago or so, my grandparents came to this country as immigrants from Russia, Ukraine, and Poland. They worked hard and assimilated into the fabric of this country. Our family thrived and felt safe. Immigrants before and since have come to this country and contributed to its greatness.

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 in policy has created 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 and failing to thrive.

If enacted, HB 1006 will require the Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at certain sensitive locations, and require State agencies that operate at these locations to adopt those policies or provide written notice of a decision not to adopt those policies. HB 1006 will protect access to essential services such as medical care, allow children to attend school without fear, and enable individuals to seek justice in the courts without the threat of detention. When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, all Marylanders are safer. By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, trust will be fostered between immigrant communities and the institutions that serve them. That trust is necessary for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society in our state..

I respectfully urge the Committee to return a favorable report on SB 828.