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TESTIMONY ON SB828/HB1006 POSITION: FAVORABLE

Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

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

FROM: Toby Ditz

My name is Toby Ditz, and I have lived in Baltimore City's District 40 for over almost forty years. This testimony is in support of **HB1006**.

I am deeply committed to this legislation partly because I am the grandchild of Jewish immigrants. My maternal grandmother, Helen, emigrated in 1919 from Russia in the midst of civil war in the company of her mother and younger sister; they fled across the closing Polish border to Amsterdam and then entered the US through Ellis Island. Had they tried to come here only ten years later, after US immigration policy choked off the flow of immigrants from Eastern Europe (and elsewhere around the world), I doubt I would be here today. I am profoundly grateful they made it.

The gates of immigration once again opened after 1965, but we are now in the midst of an era of backlash. President Trump has now rescinded federal policy limiting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in sensitive locations such as hospitals, schools, courthouses, and places of worship, leaving migrant communities vulnerable to enforcement actions in spaces where they should feel safe.

This threatens immigrants' access to health care, education, and to the solace of worship in their communities faith. Beyond that, we are *all* threatened when these institutions are disrupted by police raids, and when our immigrant neighbors are discouraged from working, learning, and worshipping with us.

Let us welcome the stranger. Let us honor the humanity of new immigrants just as we did my family by protecting sensitive locations.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB1006.