

TO: House Committee on Judiciary

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

DATE: February 27, 2025

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) supports **HB 1006 – Immigration Enforcement – Sensitive Locations – Guidelines and Policies - (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)**.

HB 1006 Summary

HB 1006 mandates the Maryland Attorney General to create guidelines restricting immigration enforcement in specified locations. These "sensitive locations" include schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and social service establishments, among others. The bill requires state agencies operating in these locations to either adopt policies aligned with these guidelines or provide written justification for non-compliance. This is an emergency bill, which shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Testimony

MSDE supports HB 1006. Guidance from MSDE is necessary to support LEAs in their work to ensure consistent implementation of law, regulation, and policy. It is important to support LEAs as they navigate the current policy environment, and to make sure that the LEAs have the most up-to-date information that includes the perspective of the Office of the Attorney General.

It is crucial that MSDE provides clear guidance on how to best support immigrant students in our schools, including key topics such as student rights, school registration processes, and how to respond to requests from immigration authorities or law enforcement. MSDE seeks to ensure that all members of our school communities are informed, prepared, and able to support immigrant students in a safe, respectful, and legally compliant manner.

To support this commitment, it will be helpful to have vetted guidance from the Office of the Attorney General, as directed in HB 1006. The proposed guidance will support school-based central office personnel in serving all students. MSDE will look to the guidance to balance the needs of teachers and administrators, and the privacy rights of families.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 1006**. Please contact Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D. (Executive Director of Government Affairs), akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov, for any additional information.