

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Testimony: HB1006 Immigration Enforcement—Sensitive Locations—Guidelines and Procedures (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

Submitting Susan Tafler

Position: FAVORABLE

Hearing Date: February 27, 2025

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Susan Tafler and I am a resident of Odenton, District 21. I am submitting this testimony urging the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1006. The Immigration Enforcement—Sensitive Locations—Guidelines and Procedures (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act) will help us protect immigrant families and ensure that hospitals, schools, courthouses, and places of worship remain safe spaces for all.

I am the granddaughter of four immigrants from Eastern Europe who came to America for freedom from forced conscription and freedom from arrest for unionizing activities as well as better economic opportunities and safety from antisemitic pogroms. As a Jew guided by our sacred texts, I am mindful that the Bible commands us: “When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The sojourners who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19: 33-34).

House Bill 1006 directs the Office of the Attorney General to develop policies that restrict ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) access to sensitive locations. Establishing clear boundaries for enforcement promotes trust between the immigrant community and essential service providers. No one should have to choose between life-saving care in a hospital and keeping their family together. Every child should be able to learn in our schools without the shadow of intimidation, and parents should be able to safely get their children to school. We want all Marylanders to feel free to enter courthouses and seek justice as well as comply with court orders without hesitation; our entire community is safer when immigrant communities are encouraged to report crimes and participate in legal processes. And finally, we must preserve the sanctity of spiritual spaces in our places of worship.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB 1006.