

Testimony in Support of HB1006
Omar Marroquin, President of the Parent Teacher Association
at Rolling Terrace Elementary School
February 25, 2025

Good afternoon Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Omar Marroquin, and I'm President of the Parent Teacher Association for Rolling Terrace Elementary (RTES), a Title I, Two-Way Language Immersion School in Takoma Park. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1006 - Protecting Sensitive Locations Act - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies.

Walking into RTES, you'll find flags from around the world lining the entrance representing the diverse makeup of our community. Spanish is the most common language you'll hear amongst families but you'll also hear Creole, Mam, and Amharic as you drop off and pick up your little ones. Diversity is embraced and celebrated in a way that brings pride and creates a safe space for our over 650 students to be themselves. But since the current administration entered the White House there is a fear amongst many of our families that is impossible to ignore.

Threats to deport as many individuals as possible have caused some students to wonder if their parents are safe, if their best friends are safe, and if they themselves are safe while they are in school. As PTA President, I've spoken with parents who are hesitating to send their children to school, receive medical care, or attend church. This intimidation is a threat to millions of innocent people across Maryland and the nation. We must do everything possible to protect our neighbors, especially those who are the most vulnerable. We're thankful for partner organizations like CASA providing legal expertise and "know your rights" training to our parents but we need more from our leaders at a state level.

We support HB 1006 because it will help protect our families in need of protection from being targeted and hunted down in our most vulnerable moments and sensitive places. No one should fear detainment by ICE while sending a child to school, receiving medical attention, or in a house of worship.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill, and for your efforts to ensure every Maryland resident is safe. The Parent Teacher Association of Rolling Terrace Elementary School urges a favorable report on House Bill 1006.