

## THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

*Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.*



### **HB1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act) House Judiciary Committee February 27, 2025**

#### **Position: SUPPORT**

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1996 who are concerned about the care of Maryland's most vulnerable children and work together to promote meaningful child welfare reform. CPMC urges a favorable report on HB1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).<sup>1</sup>

HB1006 seeks to require Maryland's Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at certain sensitive locations and requiring state agencies to be transparent about their own policies and practices.

As advocates for child safety and wellbeing, we are greatly concerned with growing fears among immigrant and refugee communities in our state about the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at sensitive locations necessary in ensuring their health and safety, and the ability for their families to thrive. For examples, it is known that non-U.S. citizens residing in Maryland often do not search out maternal healthcare at hospitals or clinics to ensure healthy maternal and infant health outcomes nor justice in our courthouses for sexual assault or domestic violence for fear of deportation. Having access to healthcare and justice is essential for all families.

We greatly appreciate the attention given in this legislation of how sensitive locations include where infants, children, and youth deserve to be safe. In addition to schools, childcare centers, and playgrounds, Maryland's children who have experienced maltreatment or being cared for regarding behavioral health issues should also feel safe in foster care facilities, child advocacy centers, and homeless shelters.

It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report on HB1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).**

---

<sup>1</sup> Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include Catholic Charities of Baltimore, Center for Hope, Child Justice, Court Appointed Special Advocates (MD CASA), Court Appointed Special Advocates (Baltimore County), MD Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, and National Association of Social Workers – MD.