



February 27, 2025

House Bill 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

House Judiciary Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) strongly supports House Bill 1006, the "Protecting Sensitive Locations Act." This critical legislation establishes clear guidelines for immigration enforcement in sensitive locations, ensuring that vulnerable populations, including children and families in crisis, can access essential services without fear or intimidation.

MARFY represents over 200 programs across Maryland, operated by private child-caring organizations that provide foster care, group homes, treatment foster care (TFC) programs, and independent living services. Our members serve Maryland's most vulnerable children—those placed in out-of-home care due to abuse, neglect, severe mental health challenges, and significant medical needs. Many of these children have experienced extreme trauma, and their safety and well-being depend on uninterrupted access to the supportive services that our member organizations provide.

House Bill 1006 rightfully recognizes that facilities such as foster care homes, group homes, medical and mental health centers, schools, and other social service establishments should be considered "sensitive locations" where immigration enforcement actions must be strictly limited. These locations are fundamental to the protection, development, and rehabilitation of children in our care.

Immigration enforcement activities in these settings can have devastating effects on the well-being of children and families. The mere presence of enforcement officers at these locations can instill fear, deter families from seeking necessary medical, educational, and social services, and create further trauma for children already facing instability. We cannot allow our foster care facilities, shelters, and group homes to become places of fear and uncertainty for the children who rely on them for safety and support.

By requiring the Attorney General to develop clear guidelines that limit immigration enforcement at sensitive locations, this legislation will ensure that children in foster care and group home settings can continue to receive the critical care and services they need. It will also provide state agencies and service providers with the clarity necessary to protect their residents and clients from unnecessary and harmful disruptions.



We commend the sponsors of House Bill 1006 for recognizing the urgency of this issue and taking action to uphold the dignity and security of Maryland's most vulnerable populations. We urge the members of this committee to vote in favor of this bill and to take a stand in support of the children, families, and care providers who depend on the protections it offers. On behalf of MARFY and the children and families we serve, we respectfully ask the members of this committee to vote in favor of House Bill 1006.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For more information call or email:

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