Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1006

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

House Judiciary Committee

February 27, 2025

HB: Dear Honorable Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maria Baltodano, I am a domestic worker and proud member of the National Domestic Workers Alliance. I am pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of HB 1006 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act).

I immigrated to this country from Nicaragua in 2004 and have been here since then. I feel compelled to support HB1006 to protect sensitive locations from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) because even though I am fortunate enough to have permanent residence in this country, many other immigrants do not have a safe status in this country.

Currently, there is a lot of fear in the immigrant community. I hear from my friends who are undocumented that they are afraid to leave their houses right now because of the threat of deportation. The truth is that many people have left their countries in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Many are running from dangerous conditions in their countries and look to the United States as a safe haven. Yet, the last couple of weeks have felt very scary for many.

I have raised and had my children in this country. I have planted my roots here and I can't imagine what it would be like to be separated from my family. Yet, this is the truth for my undocumented brothers and sisters-that they run the risk of deportation at places where we should feel the safest and in the country where they've planted their roots, the country where they've spent decades in. Children should be able to go to school, people should be able to worship, and everyone should have the right to seek medical attention if they need it without the threat of deportation.

For over a decade, ICE has had limited access to places like schools, hospitals, places of worship, and courthouses due to federal protections. However, under the new presidential administration, these protections have been revoked and the immigrant community has been left more vulnerable than ever before. As a result, our communities, public health, and overall safety are at risk.

I stand with the immigrant community and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act because it will:

- 1. **Protect Access to Essential Services**: No one should have to choose between life-saving medical care and the risk of family separation. Children deserve to attend school without fear, and individuals must be able to seek justice in our courts without the threat of detention.
- 2. **Enhance Public Safety**: When immigrants feel safe accessing services and reporting crimes, our entire community benefits. Fear of enforcement discourages individuals from cooperating with law

- enforcement, which in turn hampers public safety efforts.
- 3. **Strengthen Community Trust**: By establishing clear boundaries for immigration enforcement, we foster trust between immigrant communities and the institutions meant to serve them. This trust is essential for maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and cohesive society.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 1006.