

## Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1006

By Anna Spector, MD MPH

Washington Grove, MD 20880

SB 828 - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)

House Judiciary Committee

February 27, 2025

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

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 am a proud resident of the historic preservation district of Washington Grove which is surrounded by the most diverse community in the United States, namely Gaithersburg, Derwood and Rockville. I am also a psychiatrist who sees patients at a hospital in Rockville and at an emergency psychiatric center in the greater Washington DC area.

For over a decade, federal policy limited Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in sensitive locations—such as hospitals, schools, courthouses, and places of worship—to prevent intimidation and ensure access to essential services. However, as of January 20, 2025, the revocation of these protections has left immigrant communities vulnerable to enforcement actions in spaces where they should feel safe.

This shift has already created an environment of fear and uncertainty, discouraging individuals from seeking medical care, pursuing education, accessing legal resources, or engaging with law enforcement. As a result, our communities, public health, and overall safety are at risk.

My patients trust me to help them at their lowest moments, many of my patients come in with suicidal ideation, sometimes with homicidal ideation and they are looking for help. If they are scared to seek help because of fear they will be arrested, deported, not treated with dignity, and be separated from their families, including children, they will NOT seek the help they need. Diving down to this level of depravity is not who we are as a country. This is not who I am as a physician. My patients need to feel safe going to the hospital, going to the doctor's office, going to their place of worship and going to pick up their kids at school. These people are part of my loving community.

Everyone should access essential services without fear of detention or separation. Public safety improves when immigrants feel safe reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear enforcement boundaries build trust, strengthening communities and institutions. For these reasons, **I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 1006.**

**Dr. Anna Spector, MD MPH**