



SB 792 Hospitals - Immigration Enforcement Action - Policy Requirement

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Ricarra Jones and I am the Political Director at 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East in Maryland/DC. 1199SEIU is the largest healthcare union in the nation, and here in Maryland we have over 10,000 members working in hospitals, long term care settings, and federally qualified health centers. We support SB 792 with amendments. We believe creating policy regarding immigration enforcement action at hospitals is vital to the safety healthcare workers and patients. For those reasons, we deem it is important to include stakeholders that represent healthcare workers to be consulted in creating the policy.

This legislation will be an important bill to protect the safety and privacy of patients and healthcare workers and curtail the federal government's attack on our patients, our neighbors, and loved ones. The current political climate is already putting Marylanders in fear of accessing necessary healthcare, delaying care, and leading to more serious complications.

It will also be important to consider policy to support immigrant healthcare workers such as immigration related leave of absence for work, work authorization support, and workplace safety guidelines. Ensuring workers are at the table when creating policy regarding immigration enforcement action will ease implementation.

For those reasons, we urge a favorable report with our amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ricarra Jones
Political Director
1199SEIU UHWE