

SB0792_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#0792 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Hospitals - Immigration Enforcement Action - Policy Requirement

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ SB#/0792, Hospitals - Immigration Enforcement Action - Policy Requirement

This bill is necessary because the Federal Administration is no longer respecting health care facilities in immigration actions. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents may enter public hospital areas (lobbies, parking lots) without a warrant but require a judicial warrant or consent to enter private, non-public areas like patient rooms. While 2021-2024 policies limited enforcement in "sensitive locations," these guidelines were rescinded in January 2025.¹

Key Considerations for Immigration Actions at Hospitals:

- Public vs. Private Spaces
- Warrant Validity
- Patient Privacy & Rights
- Staff Protocol
- State-Level Actions
- Provider Responsibilities
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Impact on Care:

- Fear and Avoidance
- Staff Concerns

The bill will require the State Health Services Cost Review Commission to develop and publish a model policy, by October 1, 2026, describing how hospitals are required to respond to an immigration enforcement action at the hospitals; and requiring certain hospitals in the State to develop a policy describing how each hospital will respond to an immigration enforcement action at the hospital by January 1, 2027, or 3 months after the Commission publishes a model policy.

Maryland must meet the challenges of the problems ICE is creating in our hospitals with their aggressive and illegal actions and equip those hospitals to properly respond to that immigration action.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0792.

¹ Google AI Search "immigration actions at hospitals"