



TESTIMONY

SB0792 – Hospitals – Immigration Enforcement Action – Policy Requirement

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lam

Committee: Health

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Co-Chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of **SB0792** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

Marylanders rely on hospitals as places of healing, safety, and trust, concepts not supported by the federal regime. When patients fear that seeking care could expose them or their loved ones to immigration enforcement, the consequences reach far beyond the individual. Communities become less healthy, public health systems become strained, and preventable conditions go untreated. No one should hesitate to seek medical care because they fear being targeted in a moment of vulnerability.

SB0792 addresses this urgent concern by requiring the State Health Services Cost Review Commission to develop and publish a model policy describing how hospitals must respond to immigration enforcement actions. It further requires Maryland hospitals to adopt their own policies—consistent with the model—detailing how they will respond if immigration enforcement occurs on hospital grounds. These requirements ensure that hospitals have clear, transparent, and humane procedures that protect patient privacy, maintain trust, and prevent disruptions to essential medical services.

This bill aligns with the Coalition’s longstanding commitment to community safety, equitable access to care, and the protection of vulnerable Marylanders. Establishing consistent statewide standards strengthens that promise and reinforces Maryland’s values of dignity, compassion, and public health.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0792.