



From: Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
Date: March 30, 2026
Re: SB 792
Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Heather Bagnall, Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison, and members of the House Health Committee,

The Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs submits this letter in support of SB 792. Pursuant to our founding legislation, our Office is charged with supporting the meaningful and successful integration of immigrants into Maryland's civic, social, and economic life. Among other things, this includes support for immigrant Marylanders' access to health services.

SB 792 addresses barriers to care among patients who fear that seeking medical attention may expose them or their family members to the risk of immigration enforcement. It requires hospitals in the state to adopt a policy describing hospital protocol when there is an immigration enforcement action at the hospital, and it requires hospitals to make the immigration enforcement action policy available to all staff members and provide annual training to ensure the staff's knowledge and understanding of the policy.

While the State cannot directly restrain federal immigration enforcement action at any particular location, including hospitals, it can require that facilities providing essential services take steps to prepare for potential interactions with immigration officials in a manner that is lawful and that best promotes the public interest and the provision of health care.

SB 792 is an important extension of the State's work to ensure all residents can access essential public services. In 2025, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB 1222 the Maryland Values Act addressing immigration enforcement activity at "sensitive locations," including State and locally operated health care facilities. In its July 2025 guidance on HB 1222, the Office of the Attorney General further encouraged all public and private facilities that deliver services to the public to implement policies based on the guidance.

Many hospitals have already developed policies and protocols consistent with the Attorney General's guidance. SB 792 would require such implementation to all hospitals across the state.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of SB 792. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sonia Lin
Legal Director
Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs