

## **Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable with Amendments**

### **SB 0792 – Hospitals – Immigration Enforcement Action - Policy Requirement**

#### **House Health Committee**

**April 1, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support with amendments of **SB 0792 – Hospitals – Immigration Enforcement Action - Policy Requirement**.

ICE and the Department of Homeland Security has created an atmosphere of terror throughout the country. I have been accompanying immigrants to their immigration related appointments and the level of fear is tangible. People are afraid to go about their normal lives, and that includes looking after their health. When people are afraid to seek help with health issues, we risk both the lives and wellbeing of those people, but also of the rest of the community. It is essential that hospitals develop well thought out plans for dealing with immigration enforcement actions and I support the intent of this bill to require that they do so.

However, several amendments are needed. First, there needs to be community involvement from the immigrant community in developing these plans. Second, there needs to be a timeline for developing and implementing the plans. Third, the plan needs to be publicized. If the community is not aware of the plans, then the community will still be afraid to seek help from the hospitals.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the committee to make the above amendments and then issue a favorable report on **SB 0792**.

Thank you.

**Gita Lefstein**