



Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 792

SB 792 – Hospitals - Immigration Enforcement Action - Policy Requirement

House Health Committee

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

We Are CASA (formerly, “CASA”) is pleased to offer **favorable testimony** in **support of SB 791 - Hospitals - Immigration Enforcement Action - Policy Requirement.**

We Are CASA is a national organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities.

With a membership of over 189,000 members, We Are CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. For nearly forty years, We Are CASA has employed grassroots community organizing to bring our communities closer together and fight for justice, while simultaneously providing vital services to communities across the state and beyond.

In the past year, as the Department of Homeland Security seeks to meet an arbitrary quota of detaining [3,000 immigrants per day](#), We Are CASA has witnessed families refrain from community engagement, including doing essential activities like going to school or seeking medical attention.

SB792 is a crucial step toward ensuring unhindered access to essential services and spaces by limiting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in sensitive locations. This legislation affirms Maryland’s commitment to dignity, safety, and community by ensuring that all people, regardless of immigration status, can access preventative and lifesaving healthcare without fear or intimidation.

For over a decade, federal policy¹ restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in sensitive locations—such as hospitals, schools, and more—to prevent intimidation and maintain access to critical services. However, as of January 20, 2025, these protections have been revoked², leaving immigrant communities vulnerable to enforcement actions in places. In 2025, with your support, Maryland passed the Maryland Values Act in response to the rescission of the federal memo. Maryland reiterated its commitment to immigrant families seeking access to these basic benefits. However, private hospitals are not directly included in that legislation.

SB792 is a much needed addition to current law. We Are CASA appreciates the Maryland Hospital Association support and commitment to serving all Marylanders and we urge this committee for a favorable report on SB 792.

¹ https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

² <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/01/21/statement-dhs-spokesperson-directives-expanding-law-enforcement-and-ending-abuse>