

Testimony on SB0988 — Favorable

House Judiciary Committee

March 10, 2026

Testimony in Support of SB0988 (Judicial Facilities – Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations)

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Angela Marini** and I am a Maryland resident and taxpayer submitting testimony **in support of this bill.**

This legislation addresses stops, detentions, and arrests for certain civil offenses in and around Maryland’s judicial facilities. It also sets out conditions for the inadmissibility of improperly obtained evidence and establishes civil remedies for violations.

As a taxpayer, I believe that judicial facilities should function predictably and safely for everyone who is required to appear in them. Court proceedings, scheduled check-ins, and other mandated appointments rely on individuals being able to access these locations without fear of being approached or detained without cause.

When people worry that attending a routine appointment could result in an unexpected arrest, it can reduce participation in required proceedings and affect the overall functioning of the system.

This bill draws clearer boundaries around the types of enforcement actions that may occur in or near judicial facilities, helping ensure that these spaces remain accessible for all who are required to appear there. As a Maryland taxpayer, I believe that the dependable functioning of our judicial system depends on people being able to attend hearings and mandated appointments without fear or uncertainty. This is especially important for immigrant community members in Maryland, who may already face significant challenges navigating legal processes. Supporting consistent and predictable access to judicial facilities benefits our entire state and strengthens public confidence in the system.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on this issue.

I urge you to vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you,
Angela Marini

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