



**faith. love. liberation.**  
**fe. amor. Liberación.**

**Testimony in support of Senate Bill 988**

**Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests - Limitations**

To: Hon. William Smith, Jr., chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Jerry Kickenson, Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network

Date: March 10, 2026

We are writing in **support of Senate Bill 988, Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests - Limitations**, on behalf of the Congregation Action Network (CAN). The Congregation Action Network is a network of faith communities in Washington, DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs acting in solidarity to end detention, deportation, profiling, and criminalization of immigrants and demanding and upholding justice, dignity, safety, and family unity. With congregations and members throughout the capital area, including congregations with hundreds of members in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, we live our faith in advocacy for and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

As people of faith committed to justice and compassion for immigrants, we adhere to the sacred texts of most major faiths that call for welcoming the stranger and treating each other with love, dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be treated fairly and have the same protections as all Maryland residents.

SB988 will prohibit the stop, arrest and detention for a civil offense at or near a state or local judicial facility. This is unfortunately needed due to the habit of federal immigration enforcement authorities making such stops, arrests and detentions. Maryland residents who are fulfilling their obligations as citizens by appearing in court as plaintiffs, defendants, witnesses, or any other reason, should not be deterred from doing so by overzealous federal immigration enforcement. The state's judicial procedures, often trying criminal cases, is far more important than any civil enforcement.

Immigrant communities in Maryland are scared, and with good reason. Our member congregations are either directly or indirectly impacted by the current civil immigration enforcement onslaught. This bill will, in a small but real way, help to reduce that fear.

The Congregation Action Network respectfully urges you to reach a **favorable** report for SB988.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry Kickenson

Treasurer and Montgomery County Coordinator, Congregation Action Network  
Silver Spring, MD