



February 25, 2026

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**Senate Bill 660 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Response to Immigration
Enforcement Actions**

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD), which represents more than 2,600 licensed social workers across the state, we respectfully submit this testimony in support of Maryland Senate Bill 660 with amendments.

SB 660 is an important step toward transparency and accountability when federal immigration enforcement actions occur within Maryland communities. Requiring local law enforcement to respond, document activity, and utilize body-worn cameras when practicable creates a clear public record of events that often generate fear, confusion, and community concern. Transparency protects residents, law enforcement personnel, and public institutions alike.

However, immigration enforcement actions frequently involve children, families, older adults, and individuals experiencing significant emotional distress. These encounters can be traumatic and destabilizing, even when no criminal charges are involved. From a social work and public health perspective, the presence of trained behavioral health professionals can significantly reduce harm.

NASW-MD respectfully requests an amendment requiring that, when practicable and available, a licensed social worker or qualified crisis response professional be dispatched alongside law enforcement in response to immigration enforcement actions.

The inclusion of a social worker would:

- Support de-escalation in high-stress situations
- Provide immediate trauma-informed assistance to children and vulnerable individuals
- Help families access community resources and stabilization services
- Reduce the risk of emotional harm and long-term psychological impact
- Strengthen community trust in public safety responses

(over)



Maryland has been a leader in advancing co-responder and crisis intervention models. Integrating social workers into responses to immigration enforcement actions aligns with evidence-based best practices and enhances public safety without interfering with federal authority or the bill's transparency objectives.

SB 660 establishes an accountability framework. Adding a social work component ensures that Maryland's response is not only transparent, but also humane and trauma informed.

For these reasons, NASW-MD respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report with amendments to incorporate licensed social workers or crisis response professionals when practicable.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

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Representing more than 2,600 social workers statewide