

SB0988_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#0988 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations

TO: Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0988, **Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests - Limitations**

This bill is a reaction to the Unlawful ICE arrests at Immigration Courthouses as documented by the National Immigrant Justice Center.¹

The class action lawsuit seeks to end ongoing collusion between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) that has intentionally stripped people of basic due process rights afforded under U.S. immigration law and the Fifth Amendment to place them in expedited removal proceedings and deport them without hearings.

All the plaintiffs appeared at their hearings intending to request protection or other legal status in the United States, only to have a government attorney unexpectedly ask the immigration judge to dismiss their cases. When a judge agreed to the dismissal, often over plaintiffs' objections, the plaintiffs were arrested and detained by DHS Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers who were waiting at the courthouse.

We can protect immigrants who are trying to do the right thing under the law from facing the horrors that ICE has been doing all over the country. We can stop that in Maryland by passing this bill to prohibit a person from being stopped, detained, or arrested for certain civil offenses while the individual is in a judicial facility or is traveling within 1 mile of a judicial facility for the purpose of attending a meeting, a hearing, or another official proceeding in the Judicial facility except under certain circumstances; establishing that evidence obtained in violation of the Act is inadmissible in a proceeding over which a State court or State or local agency has jurisdiction; etc.

Until ICE stops these flagrant violations of constitutional protections Maryland must make those protections real in Maryland.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0988.

¹ <https://immigrantjustice.org/press-release/unlawful-ice-arrests-at-immigration-courthouses-prompt-lawsuit-by-advocates-and-immigrants/>