

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
SB988 - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations**

House Judiciary Committee

March 10, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee:

I, Sanjdra Wastler, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of SB988 **Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations**

Immigrants who are in the process of obtaining citizenship and following the rules should not be used as pawns to achieve an illegal quota to pay bounty to U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement officers.

A day after President Donald Trump took office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued a new directive to its agents: Arrests at courthouses, restricted under the Biden administration, were again permissible. This directive prevents immigrants from attending court hearings, required immigration court proceedings or check-ins with Immigration and Customs Enforcement that they had attended for decades. The administration's policy has forced immigrants to choose between attending mandatory hearings and risking arrest or missing court and facing an automatic deportation order. This untenable choice has led to a surge in absenteeism, undermining the integrity of the entire immigration court system.

HB 309 will 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. Arrests in and around any court including family, traffic, immigration and criminal courts, create a "chilling effect" that undermines the justice system by discouraging victims and witnesses from attending.

HB 309 will protect the rights of all residents and support the integrity of our judicial system

I urge you to vote in favor of this bill.