



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

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 12, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee

I am writing on behalf of Indivisible HoCoMD to offer favorable testimony in support of **SB988- Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations**.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, IndivisibleHoCoMD has more than 1,700 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. There are 49 Indivisible groups in Maryland and over 2,500 nationwide.

The Trump Administration policy of allowing, even encouraging, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to arrest immigrants in and around courthouses undermines our rule of law, our civil liberties, and our human rights. This policy has forced immigrants to choose between attending required immigration court proceedings or check-ins with ICE 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.

SB988 will stop this immoral practice by prohibiting ICE interference with any individual in a judicial facility or within one mile of a judicial facility enroute to any official proceeding.

SB988 not only protects the rights of immigrants, it also protects the entire community. Victims and witnesses of a crime are much less likely to go to the police or to attend any court if they fear arrest and detention.

Maryland is joining other states that are filing or have passed legislation similar to SB988.

For these reasons, I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB988**.

Laurie Liskin, on behalf of Indivisible HoCoMD
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