

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
HB309 Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations

House Judiciary Committee

February 2, 2026

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

My name is Dr. Anna Rubin, I am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB309- Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations**

As the chair of Columbia Jewish Congregation’s Social Justice Committee, I am frequently reminded of what the prophet Micah enjoins us: “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Helping the stranger is mentioned thirty-two times in the Torah. Acting justly towards our immigrant neighbors requires us to stop ICE’s policy of abducting people at or near their courthouse hearings, when they are at their most vulnerable.

- Trump’s 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.
- 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.

In closing, I enthusiastically urge you to vote in favor of HB309..