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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0309, Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests -  
Limitations

2/04/2026

TO: Chair J. Sandy Bartlett & Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Angela Alt

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Angela Alt. I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB 0309, which would place limitations on Stops, Detentions, and Arrests at Judicial Facilities.

We have all heard the Federal Government talk about removing violent criminals from our streets, while the reality of what we see is that they want to deport law-abiding immigrants, and even US Citizens, if their skin is brown. Federal agents have been hanging around courts and other administrative buildings where immigrants, who entered this country legally and are following all the rules to check in regarding their immigration cases, are required to go. For immigrants, if they don't go to the check-ins, then they are violating the immigration rules and can be deported, but ICE Agents deport them anyway.

This must stop. If we have rules for immigrants to check in at courthouses and other administrative buildings, we have to make them secure from ICE Agents. This bill, if enacted, would prohibit detaining, or arresting an individual for an alleged or adjudicated offense that is subject only to a civil penalty 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 that judicial facility.

It makes evidence from detention inadmissible in court and allows detention, arrest, or civil claims against those who detain or arrest, vital for immigrants pursuing citizenship and holding federal agents accountable in Maryland.

I urge you to support favorably passing HB 0309. Help ensure that anyone doing their due diligence to be in our country, through the very procedures set up for them to do so, is protected to do just that.

Sincerely-  
Angela Alt