

HB 1146: Crime of Violence - Medical Facilities and Places of Worship - Penalty (**Sacred Places Safety Act**): Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 1146**.

HB 1146, the Sacred Places Safety Act, would prohibit a person from committing a crime of violence while in a medical facility (such as a hospital, clinic, or urgent care center) or a place of worship (such as a church, synagogue, mosque, or temple). A violation would be a felony punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment, in addition to penalties for the underlying crime.

Medical facilities and places of worship are sanctuaries where people—often at their most vulnerable—seek healing, care, comfort, and spiritual support. Violent acts in these locations not only endanger lives but also terrorize communities, disrupt essential services, and erode trust in safe spaces for recovery and worship. **Enhancing penalties for crimes of violence committed in these sacred places sends a clear message that such attacks will face severe consequences, deters potential offenders, and better protects patients, families, healthcare workers, clergy, congregants and communities.**

This targeted, commonsense measure builds on Maryland's existing framework for crimes of violence without broadly expanding criminal law—it focuses narrowly on locations deserving heightened protection due to their unique role in society.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 1146**.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this vital public safety legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals