



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony

SB 810- Immigration Enforcement - Expanding Sensitive Locations, Notification, and Guidance (Maryland Values Act of 2026) Favorable Report

To: Del. J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair, Del. Debra Davis, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the Judiciary Committee
From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate for Immigration,
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Date: April 1, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony **IN FAVOR** of **SB 810- Immigration Enforcement - Expanding Sensitive Locations, Notification, and Guidance (Maryland Values Act of 2026.)** This bill will prohibit school security personnel from participation in certain federal immigration investigation and enforcement actions.

The General Assembly has already banned participation of local law enforcement officers with federal civil immigration authorities (287g programs). Now we must continue to close the gap and ensure that our schools remain safe for all.

Since 2011, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has maintained standing guidance requiring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to refrain from immigration enforcement actions in certain areas (previously known as “Sensitive Locations”). In 2021, the Biden administration issued a memo expanding the definitions of these areas, which included schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, places where children gather, social services providers, disaster/emergency response sites, and included weddings, funerals, and religious ceremonies; and parades, demonstrations, and rallies.

Now, the current national administration has broadened its cruel and inhumane attack on immigrants, by removing the protections of these “Sensitive Locations” and authorized ICE agents to take enforcement actions in any of these spaces and areas, including schools. This unprecedented directive is cruel and designed to create fear in immigrant communities everywhere.

Keeping our schools safe for everyone is inherent in my faith, which I share with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across Maryland, a faith that calls me to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity, justice, equity and compassion, and above all, free from fear.

I encourage you to vote **IN FAVOR** of **SB 810**.

Thank you.
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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