



**FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

**HB 309 – Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests - Limitations**

**DATE:** February 4, 2026  
**COMMITTEE:** House Judiciary Committee  
**POSITION:** Favorable  
**FROM:** The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **HB 309 – Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests - Limitations** a favorable report.

This legislation would ban stopping, detaining, or arresting individuals for civil offenses near judicial facilities when attending meetings, hearings, or other official proceedings. Immigration enforcement should not target residents lawfully following the process. The current practice of detaining individuals attending their scheduled immigration check-ins undermines the credibility of immigration enforcement focused on law and order, makes our communities less safe, and must be prohibited.

With the federal government intensifying its immigration enforcement measures, communities nationwide and within our state have experienced increased tension and anxiety. These aggressive and opportunistic tactics negatively impact legal residents and those striving to become legal residents through good faith efforts.

Like many other elected leaders, I have heard from constituents whose friends and family members have been detained while attending immigration hearings required for their residency. Many of these individuals are long-time residents who have deep connections with the community and should not be targeted while seeking to maintain or update their legal status. Targeting these individuals while they are actively pursuing or maintaining legal residency is counter to the intent of immigration enforcement and not in line with Maryland and Frederick County values.

If individuals fear attending court hearings, our judicial system fails. Passing HB 309 is essential to protect residents and ensure community safety, allowing immigrants to meet legal requirements without fear of detention. Safe judicial participation is crucial for safe communities. This legislation will help to ensure the integrity of the crucial judicial system and the safety of those participating.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 309. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.

Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive  
Frederick County, MD