

**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 Committee:

I, Adil Ahmed, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of HB309, Judicial Facilities – Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations.

As a member of the Howard County Muslim Alliance, I am writing to express my community's strong support for this legislation.

Due process rights are fundamental to a democratic society, and the current presidential administration has taken a stance that they'd rather scare immigrants away from our justice system instead of engage with it. We cannot accept this new norm.

Arrests in and around any court create a chilling effect that undermines our justice system by discouraging victims and witnesses – eroding trust in a system that is supposed to administer laws fairly and keep us all safe.

Not only does absenteeism undermine the integrity of the entire immigration system, it forces our most vulnerable to evade a court-ordered sentence, thereby driving them into a spiral of evasion and rendering them unable to participate in our economy and society.

This is something we truly cannot afford.

Several of our peer states have passed such legislation: Connecticut, California, and Illinois to name a few. The Governor of Massachusetts personally filed legislation to do the same.

Please move this bill forward for the benefit of all Marylanders who deserve a judicial system they can freely engage in.

Thank you.