

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

I am the granddaughter, daughter, and mother-in-law of immigrants, and I have worked in more than 20 countries in Africa, Asia, and the former Soviet Union. I know first-hand why people come to the United States. I also know that immigrants have contributed enormously to our country and to our state.

The Trump Administration policy of allowing, even encouraging, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to arrest immigrants in and around courthouses undermines our rule of law, our civil liberties, and our human rights. This policy has forced immigrants to choose between attending required immigration court proceedings or check-ins with ICE and risking arrest or missing court and facing an automatic deportation order. This untenable choice has led to a surge in absenteeism, undermining the integrity of the entire immigration court system.

HB 309 will stop this immoral practice by prohibiting ICE interference with any individual in a judicial facility or within 1 mile of a judicial facility enroute to any official proceeding.

HB309, not only protects the rights of immigrants; it also protects the entire community. Victims and witnesses of a crime are much less likely to attend any court if they fear arrest and detention.

Maryland is joining other states that are filing or have passed legislation similar to HB 309.

For these reasons, I urge the House Judiciary Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB309.**

Laurie Liskin
4642 Smokey Wreath Way, Ellicott City, MD 21042