

My name is Lisa Siano and I live in Columbia MD.

I am writing urge a favorable vote on HB 0309 to protest the egregious sleight of hand by ICE by using subterfuge and cruelty to ensnare people who are in the country legally and pursuing a proper path for residency or citizenship, only to be viciously grabbed and detained with warrants while they are following the law trying to attend required check ins and/or Immigration Court proceedings.

These arrests and detentions while people are trying to follow the law undermines the rule of law, civil rights and 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.

Thank you for your kind attention.