

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

A day after President Donald Trump took office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued a new directive to its agents: Arrests at courthouses, restricted under the Biden administration, were again permissible. This directive prevents immigrants from attending court hearings, required immigration court proceedings or check-ins with Immigration and Customs Enforcement that they had attended for decades. The administration's policy has forced immigrants to choose between attending mandatory hearings 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 Prohibit a person from being stopped, detained, or arrested for certain civil offenses while the individual is in a judicial facility or is traveling within 1 mile of a judicial facility for the purpose of attending a meeting, a hearing, or another official proceeding in the Judicial facility except under certain circumstances; establishing that evidence obtained in violation of the Act is inadmissible in a proceeding over which a State court or State or local agency has jurisdiction; etc. Arrests in and around any court including family, traffic, immigration and criminal courts, create a "chilling effect" that undermines the justice system by discouraging victims and witnesses from attending. Other states are filing or have passed similar legislation similar to HB 309. HB 309 will protect the rights of all residents and support the integrity of our judicial system.

This bill is important to prevent predatory behavior and protect further overreach by the current administration. People should not be punished for going to court and following the correct processes. These actions are vital for protecting democracy.

I urge you to vote in favor of this bill.