

Andrew Lewis

685 Winding Stream Way, Odenton MD, 21113

District 21

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0309, Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests -
Limitations

2/04/2026

TO: Chair J. Sandy Bartlett & Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Andrew Lewis

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Andrew Lewis , I live in Odenton, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB 0309, to put limitations on Stops, Detentions, and Arrests at Judicial Facilities.

This bill, if enacted, would prohibit detaining, or arresting an individual for an offense that is subject only to a civil penalty 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 that judicial facility.

This prohibition should be fundamental for the smooth, effective operation of any judicial system. If a person can be punished JUST for showing up Court, than our Courts are powerless. They become nothing but traps, meant to ensnare not only the most vulnerable among us, but also those with the most confidence in our legal system.

It also makes any evidence collected at the detention or arrest inadmissible in court and allows the person to be detained or arrested, or the Attorney General to file a civil claim against the person who detained or arrested them. This is an important safeguard, which will allow immigrants to follow all processes and procedures required by our legal system, without fear of punishment simply for their existence. This would also ensure accountability towards law enforcement Agents who would seek to satisfy predatory urges at the expense of others.

I urge you to support favorably passing HB 0309. Help ensure that anyone doing their due diligence to be in our country, through the very procedures set up for them to do so, be protected to do just that.

Andrew