

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Jennifer Hicks

DATE: 2.2.2026

RE: SUPPORT for HB0309 - Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests - Limitations

Hello,

Despite being currently stationed overseas, I am writing today as a homeowner and tax-paying resident of Maryland to express my strong support for HB0309. This legislation is a necessary step in protecting the integrity of our legal system and ensuring that every Marylander, regardless of immigration status, can access justice without fear of predatory enforcement. Federal agencies like ICE have completely weaponized our judicial spaces as hunting grounds. By lying in wait to ambush fearful victims at courthouses and administration centers, they turn essential civic duties like attending a hearing into traps for deportation. Nothing about this makes us any safer; they do the opposite by deterring victims and witnesses from coming forward, effectively chilling the administration of justice for everyone.

Why I support HB0309:

1. Accountability - allows individuals who are unlawfully detained to seek damages and injunctive relief against those responsible.
2. Protecting judicial access - prohibits arrests for civil offenses within judicial facilities or within one mile of them while an individual is traveling to or from a proceeding.
3. Upholding due process - makes evidence obtained through illegal courthouse arrests inadmissible in state proceedings.
4. Strengthening existing protections - this will further protect Maryland's "sensitive locations" from aggressive federal overreach.

Courthouses must always remain sanctuaries of the law, not hunting grounds for federal agents engaging in harassment. ICE's pattern of targeting people at their most vulnerable - when they are trying to navigate a complex legal system - is an affront to Maryland's values. Passing HB0309 will send a clear message: The State of Maryland will not facilitate or tolerate the abusive tactics of federal immigration agents.

I urge a favorable report on HB0309.

Respectfully,

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