

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
HB309 Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations

House Judiciary Committee

February 4, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ruth Auerbach. I am providing testimony in support of **HB309- Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations**. I am grateful to the leadership of Delegate Stewart for sponsoring this important legislation.

I am distressed that immigrants are being arrested when attending court proceedings and check-ins with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. People should not be penalized for participating in required legal proceedings. The federal government is treating people unfairly. I hope Maryland will take actions to protect law abiding immigrants attending required hearing and meetings.

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. 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.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical legislations. **I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.**

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