

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

I have been deeply concerned with the number of accounts citing detentions of immigrants by ICE when future US citizens are attending their required court proceedings. To be arrested for following the law doesn't make sense. It is as if ICE is not concerned about citizenship or status, but a more heinous use of racial profiling to carry out unjust directives. These are not the actions I want our state to support. Immigrants and their value to the communities of Maryland should be protected and therefore I support HB309.

- 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

I urge you to vote in favor of this bill.