

## **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, Janet Doyle of Easton, MD, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB309-Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations**

I am outraged by the tactics that ICE and CBP agents are using to detain individuals who they claim are illegal immigrants. Often that is not the case. What is truly unforgivable is ICE apprehending individuals who follow the law and show up for their immigration hearings at courthouses. That should not be allowed. I offer the following as evidence:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Janet Doyle