

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, Katie Bingner, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of HB309. A day after this administration 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 baits law-abiding immigrants and prevents them from safely attending their court hearings, which are required by law. Those who have been attending their court proceedings for decades, now are understandably terrified to expose themselves to what's tantamount to a trap.

Imagine being forced 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. Unfortunately, I believe this was the administration's cruel and unjust goal.

But we don't have to let this stand! 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.

HB 309 will protect the rights of all residents and support the integrity of our judicial system and proper immigration proceedings.

I urge you to vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention,  
Katie Bingner  
Elkridge, MD