

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, Joseph Kendra, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of HB 309- Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations

I am a concerned citizen, career scientist, and second-generation Mexican American who has watched with horror at the unfolding lawlessness and abuse by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents under the administration of Donald Trump.

A day after President Trump took office, ICE issued a new directive to its agents: arrests at courthouses, which were restricted under the Biden administration, were again permissible. This directive has allowed ICE agents to terrorize and abduct immigrants attending court hearings, including mandatory immigration court proceedings. I consider this directive to be a fundamental mockery of our justice and immigration system, as it forces immigrants to make the impossible choice of risking arrest at the hands of ICE agents in order to attend mandatory hearings or to miss court and face an automatic deportation order. Indeed, this untenable situation has resulted in a surge of absenteeism, further undermining the integrity of the immigration system that ICE purports to uphold.

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.

I support HB 309 as a commonsense measure to limit the chilling effect imposed by ICE agents on immigrants and to protect the rights of all residents as well as the fabric of our judicial system.

Please vote in support of this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.