

Thelma M. Moore
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Laurel, MD 20724
District 32

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB0309 Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations

February 2, 2026

TO: Chair Bartlett and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Thelma M. Moore

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

I, Thelma M. Moore, am writing to offer favorable support of **HB309- Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations**

The current behavior of ICE, CBP, and DHS is inhumane and needs to stop.

- 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.
- 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.

Thank you,

Thelma M. Moore