

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

I highly value human rights and the dignity of due process for all. I work with young children with developmental concerns and their families. Families have already been devastated by the immigration related actions of federal agencies. Communities are living with high stress and in fear of potential actions. It is unsustainable for any family, but especially when there is already the stress of having children with medical or developmental concerns.

Once President Trump took office, DHS 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 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.

Just as other states have been putting in protections for immigrants, 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. HB 309 will protect the rights and safety of all residents and support the integrity of our judicial system.

Respectfully, I urge you to vote in favor of this bill.

Angela Whalen

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