



DATE: February 26, 2020

BILL NO: SB903

BILL TITLE: Immigration Enforcement--Public Schools, Hospitals, and Courthouses--Policies

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

BILL CONTACT: Senator William C. Smith, Jr.

To: The Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee, and Committee Members,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of DoTheMostGood—Montgomery County, a progressive organization with more than 1600 members who live in all areas of Montgomery County. One of the primary areas of focus for our organization is to increase public health and safety for all Maryland residents.

SB903, in brief, would bar Federal immigration authorities from accessing public schools, hospitals, and courthouses. Specifically, Maryland's attorney general, in consultation with stakeholders, shall develop guidelines to assist public schools, hospitals, and courthouses draft policies that limit civil immigration enforcement activities on their premises. This is to ensure that these facilities remain safe and accessible to all, regardless of their immigration status. After issuance of the guidelines, public schools, hospitals, and courthouses would be authorized to establish and publish policies that limit immigration enforcement on their premises to the full extent possible consistent with Federal and State law based on the guidelines developed by the Attorney General.

DoTheMostGood strongly supports the enactment of SB903 as its scope is carefully limited to facilities that all residents of Maryland must be able to access without concern about being subject to immigration enforcement. Children have a legal right to attend public schools and they should be able to attend them without fear of the presence of immigration authorities. Educating residents to further their own personal development and the future economy of the state and the country must remain a top priority of the legislature. Concomitantly, parents, guardians, and caretakers must be able to transport students to school without concern of being taken away from the children they are responsible for.

Additionally, when individuals or family members are sick and need medical treatment at a hospital, they must not be fearful that going to the hospital could result in deportation. If that is a concern, some individuals may stay at home and not receive essential treatment.

Similarly, all residents should not have concerns about deportation when at a courtroom on matters that do not pertain to their immigration status. Justice requires that all residents be able to make necessary court appearances or enter a judicial facility to file legal documents.

Therefore, enactment of SB903 is an essential step for preserving traditional American values that we all cherish.

In closing, DoTheMostGood recommends a **Favorable** report on SB903.

Respectfully submitted,

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