

Testimony in support of HB403 - 2020

Immigration Enforcement - Public Schools, Hospitals, and Courthouses – Policies

To: Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Jim Duff

Date: February 11, 2020

I am writing in **support of House Bill 403**, Immigration Enforcement - Public Schools, Hospitals, and Courthouses – Policies.

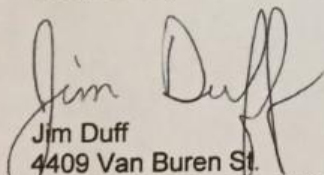
I live in University Park, Maryland. I'm a software engineer and I am the director of Outreach Ministries at University Christian Church, in Hyattsville, Maryland.

Our daughter is a graduate of Northwestern High School in Hyattsville. Three years ago, we were so proud when she helped lead a large rally at Northwestern High School, in support of the rights of those who are immigrants in our communities. She told our family and our church stories of **large numbers of her friends and classmates, children and youth at our neighborhood schools here in Maryland, who are very frightened** - afraid that their parents will be suddenly stolen away, or that they themselves will be taken away, or put into custody, by ICE. This is not an acceptable situation in a free country.

We know that ICE is overly powerful and can bring visceral fear into any community it wishes. But we in Maryland need to fight back as best we can, by doing the best we can to ensure that our schools, hospitals, and courthouses are places of safety and trust for everyone in our community, no matter who we are or how we got here. We are neighbors, and that means we look out for each other.

By requiring the Attorney General to set guidelines for limiting immigration enforcement actions in schools, hospitals, and courthouses, HB403 will help make my community safer and help to restore trust in local and state government.

Respectfully Yours,



Jim Duff
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