



DATE: February 11, 2020

BILL NO: HB403

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

COMMITTEE: Judiciary Committee

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

BILL CONTACT: Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins

To: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair, Judiciary Committee, and Committee Members,

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

HB403, 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 HB403 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. At the same time, parents, guardians, and caretakers must be able to transport students to school without concern of being taken away from the children for whom they are responsible.

Additionally, when individuals or family members are sick and need 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, no residents should 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 HB403 is an essential step for preserving traditional American values that we all cherish.

In closing, DoTheMostGood recommends a **FAVORABLE** report on HB403.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Noveau
Executive Director, DoTheMostGood
barbara@dtmg.org
240-338-3048