



Taking Action with the RAC for the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

Why is the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act necessary?

- In January 2025, as part of its pledge to conduct mass deportation, the Trump administration rescinded a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy that substantially restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents from conducting immigration arrests in or near “sensitive locations” like hospitals, schools, and houses of worship except in exigent circumstances. This policy, which has been in place in various forms since the 1990s, ensures that immigrants can worship freely and access critical educational and health care services without fear of arrest or deportation.
- Non-citizens should not live in fear of enforcement actions while [seeking protection from domestic violence](#) or [going to a place of worship](#). When people fear arrest [attending religious services, leaving church-affiliated shelters, dropping their children off at school, or receiving urgently needed healthcare](#), a chilling effect is felt across entire communities. It has been documented that [immigrant families have avoided engaging in essential activities](#) like going to the doctor’s office or taking their children to school out of fear of interacting with immigration enforcement agents.
- The threat of immigration enforcement at places of worship and during religious occasions also infringes on long standing principles of religious freedom protected by the First Amendment. The URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) and CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) have proudly joined more than two dozen national faith denominations and associations as plaintiffs in a major federal lawsuit challenging this decision as an infringement on religious freedom. The lawsuit is rooted in our commitment to defending our right and ability to fulfill without government interference the holy and prophetic tenets of our faith, including worship,

community building, education, programming and more. The United States' dedication to religious freedom, established in the First Amendment to the Constitution, is a unique and central blessing of our democracy. However, even a positive outcome to this lawsuit would likely only protect plaintiffs, leaving many vulnerable communities without broader legislative protection.

What would the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act do?

- The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (S. 455/H.R. 1061) would reinstate the DHS policy and expand sensitive location protections to a broader range of educational and medical facilities, federal and state courthouses, DMVs and social security offices, facilities (such as rape crisis and homeless shelters) that provide essential social services, and more.
- It also mandates that ICE and CBP agents receive training on carrying out immigration enforcement actions and requires that ICE and CBP submit an annual report to Congress on enforcement actions.
- The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act prohibits immigration enforcement actions by DHS officers or agents at or within 1,000 feet of sensitive locations, including:
 - **Medical treatment and health care facilities**, such as hospitals, community health centers, and accredited health clinics;
 - **Public and private schools and other education-related locations**, such as pre-schools, Head Start programs, early care and education programs, K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, school bus stops, and during school field trips;
 - **Places where children gather**, such as playgrounds, recreation centers, and child care centers;
 - **Places providing social services, including disaster or emergency response relief**, such as food banks and pantries, shelters, the office of an individual's lawyer, community-based organizations, public libraries, union halls, and other organizations and centers that provide assistance;
 - **Places of worship**, such as churches, mosques, and synagogues;
 - **Religious or civil ceremonies or observances**, such as sites of funerals and weddings;
 - **During public demonstrations**, such as a march, rally, or parade;
 - **Government buildings**, such as federal, state, or local courthouses, Congressional district offices, Social Security offices, public assistance offices, and the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- Establishes exceptions for sensitive locations in the case of exigent circumstances, such as imminent risk of death, violence, or threat to public safety.

What do our Jewish values say about protecting immigrants and newcomers?

- No less than 36 times, the Torah instructs us on how to treat the *ger*, the foreigner among us. God commands, “The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:34).
- As told in Genesis, Abraham and Sarah not only allowed three guests to enter their tent, but they also ran towards them and prepared them a meal. This story highlights our duty to show hospitality to the stranger or newcomer.
- Guided by this repeated injunction to love the stranger, the Reform Jewish Movement has long been committed to fixing our fractured immigration system and ensuring just, compassionate, and equitable immigration policies are enacted.

Do my Members of Congress support Protecting Sensitive Locations Act?

Find out if your Representative supports the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (H.R. 1061): <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1061/text>

- If your Representative is a cosponsor, thank them for supporting the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (H.R. 1061), demonstrating their commitment to protecting the rights of all immigrants.
- If your Representative is NOT a cosponsor, ask them to demonstrate their commitment to protecting the rights of immigrants by cosponsoring the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (H.R. 1061).

Find out if your Senators support the Safe Schools Improvement Act (S. 455):

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/455/cosponsors>

- If your Senator is a cosponsor, thank them for supporting the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (S. 455), demonstrating their commitment to protecting the rights of immigrants.
- If your Senator is NOT a cosponsor, ask them to demonstrate their commitment to protecting the rights of immigrants by cosponsoring the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (S. 455).

Please contact RAC Legislative Assistant [Tamara Upfal](#) for more information about the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, how to connect with your elected officials, or the Reform Movement’s work on immigration justice.