



*We Will Empower Bold Change to Elevate  
Human Flourishing.<sup>SM</sup>*

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Adriano Espaillat  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Rep. Espaillat and Sen. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization representing more than 2,200 Catholic hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, service providers, healthcare systems, and other facilities across all fifty states, I would like to thank you for introducing the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act and express our support for this important legislation.

As the largest not-for-profit provider of health care services in the nation, Catholic health care providers are committed to ensuring access to affordable and quality care for all. We believe everything should have equal access to health care, regardless of immigration status. We affirm that every human life is sacred and possesses inalienable worth, and that health care is essential to promoting and protecting the inherent dignity of every individual. When access to health care is impeded, our mission to provide care is also.

The recent Administration decision to rescind the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) "Protected Areas" policy for immigration enforcement actions has led to confusion and uncertainty for many organizations serving the most vulnerable, including health care providers. The previous policy prohibited immigration enforcement actions in places that provide vital services such as health care, education, social services and religious or civil ceremonies and observances. In addition to preventing undocumented immigrants from accessing these vital services, the lack of immigration enforcement policies and guidelines inevitably leads to a chilling effect, preventing many immigrant individuals and families of any status from seeking these services out of fear of being swept up in enforcement actions.

Your legislation, the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, would codify the previous and longstanding guidance into law and ensure that future Administrations will not be able to easily dismiss the protections provided in that guidance. We are pleased that this legislation prohibits immigration enforcement actions by DHS officers or agents at or within 1,000 feet of sensitive locations, including health care facilities such as hospitals, community health centers and accredited health clinics. We are also pleased that the legislation offers these protections to social services agencies, educational facilities and places of worship among others, all of which along with health care providers play an important role in assisting immigrants and their families to live



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healthy and productive lives. Those who serve everyone seeking these vital services, and those accessing them, deserve the clarity and safety your legislation would provide.

Thank you again for introducing this legislation, and we look forward to working with you and all members of Congress to ensure its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM  
President and CEO