

Alexandria Sweeney
Regarding House Bill 1018
February 10, 2026

My name is Alexandria Sweeney and I am a Baltimore City resident and a member of the Greater Democratic Socialists of America. I'm writing in support of HB1018 to require mandatory standards for conditions, reporting, and care for folks detained in immigration detention and/or correctional facilities. All human beings, regardless of their race, language, economic class, or immigration status, have inherent dignity and value by virtue of their humanity. They deserve to have their human rights honored and protected. It is clear from whistleblower testimony and leaked video footage from 31 Hopkins Plaza that there are no accountable mechanisms currently in place to protect the human rights of my neighbors who have been snatched off the streets and placed in ICE facilities in my own backyard. It is unconscionable to allow people to be packed into buildings with insufficient access to food, blankets, heat, healthcare, hygiene, and proper living conditions. We must have mandatory standards in place to prevent these injustices from occurring now and in the future. There must be oversight and reporting procedures to allow for intervention when standards are not met, and legal action must be taken against any entities that violate the basic human rights of anyone held in detention or correctional facilities. These regulations must be implemented immediately to protect those whose rights are being violated as we speak.

We know that immigrants are being targeted by ICE based on racial profiling, and we know that people of color are disproportionately arrested and charged with crimes. It is our lawmakers responsibility to dismantle racial injustice in every instance. The treatment and protection of incarcerated and/or detained folks is a racial justice issue and a human rights issue. I am writing because I am a human being, a Latina, a Baltimore City resident with immigrant community members, a person with eyes, ears, and a moral compass. I implore you to take this step towards correcting the many wrongs of our immigrant enforcement and carceral systems.

This bill is a relatively small but necessary step towards righting the grievous evils that are enacted by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency - an agency that must be abolished, and the inhumane carceral system which must ultimately be replaced by systems of reparative justice and liberation for all.