

My name is Allan Carter. I am a Maryland resident and a technology professional, and I'm writing in support of this bill establishing mandatory standards and stronger oversight for immigration detention facilities.

In my work, I deal with systems, infrastructure, and support issues. One thing I've learned over and over is that when there are no clear standards or when standards exist but no one is required to report problems or enforce them things fail. Issues get ignored because it's inconvenient to deal with them. Responsibility gets passed around. Small problems grow into serious harm because there is no real accountability built into the system.

Facilities that hold people are still systems, and the people inside them are completely dependent on how well those systems are run. Based on what I have observed, I don't think having an immigration facility in the state is a wise choice as thus far DHS failed to provide proper human rights support and accountability. However, if the state allows detention to happen within its borders, then the state has a responsibility to make sure there are enforceable rules for safety, health care, living conditions, and emergency preparedness. Oversight, inspections, and required reporting are not extreme — they are the basic guardrails that keep any high-risk system from sliding into neglect.

This bill recognizes that standards on paper do not protect anyone unless there are mechanisms to report violations, review them, and take action when facilities fail. That is just how accountability works in the real world.

I urge you to support this legislation to ensure that facilities operating in Maryland meet minimum standards of safety, transparency, and humane treatment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Allan Carter