

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB1017 Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

February 12, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB1017** Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement.

- *More than one in six Maryland residents are immigrants. Many have lived here for decades, work in the community, pay taxes, and contribute to our state in multiple ways. **Maryland values its residents of all backgrounds, cultures, and experiences.***
- *In 2025, ICE arrested more than 3,300 people in Maryland, more than twice the number arrested in 2024. Only one-third of those arrested had any criminal convictions, and just over half had no criminal charges whatsoever. **If we allow ICE to build detention centers in Maryland, more innocent people will be arrested.***
- *Private detention centers **create fear and distrust in our community** making people afraid to go to work, take their children to school, and shop for basic necessities.*
- ***ICE agents have repeatedly ignored the rule of law and the civil rights guaranteed to all US residents in the Constitution, including undocumented immigrants.***

I urge the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to issue **a favorable report** on HB 1017.



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