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Position: Concerned Maryland Resident

Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections

Hearing Date: February 12, 2026

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1018, which would require the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt regulations establishing minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities and would update responsibilities and limitations for the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards as they relate to such facilities.

I urge the Committee to favorably report this bill because every person detained in Maryland, regardless of immigration status, deserves to be treated with basic human dignity and held in conditions that meet clear, enforceable standards.

Immigration detention centers currently operate under a patchwork of oversight mechanisms, and without these minimum mandatory standards, detainees can face unsafe or degrading conditions with little transparency or accountability. Establishing clear standards for care, custody, access to medical attention, nutrition, sanitation, communication, legal visitation, and reporting will help ensure that Maryland upholds its values of fairness, justice, and respect for human rights.

In addition, by clarifying the role of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards, this legislation strengthens independent oversight and ensures that detention facilities, many of which hold civil detainees rather than convicted persons, are subject to the same expectations of humane treatment that apply to other detention settings.

As a concerned citizen, I believe Maryland should be a leader in ensuring that government-related facilities do not perpetuate harm or neglect. Establishing minimum mandatory standards for immigration detention conditions is a common-sense step toward protecting the health, safety, and civil rights of all people within our borders.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1018.

Thank you.