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**Testimony on HB 1018 – Favorable
HB 1018 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards**

February 12, 2026

To: Honorable Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

From: Paul Holmes

My name is Paul Holmes. I live in District 19, Silver Spring and offer this testimony **in support of HB 1018 – Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.**

This bill is about upholding Maryland’s values—fairness, dignity, and justice for all. This bill affirms that our state should not be in the business of tearing families apart, undermining public trust, or funneling state and local resources into a federal deportation agenda. Instead, Maryland should remain focused on community safety, due process, and equal treatment under the law by prohibiting immigration detention in Maryland in every way possible.

Our immigrant community is already under siege by federal government actions. We thought we’d stopped the problem of immigration detention in Maryland when the Dignity not Detention Act was enacted in 2021, so are appalled to be facing this issue again.

As has been repeatedly reported, individuals in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are routinely met with medical neglect, isolation, and abuse at the hands of detention officials (including during overcrowded and extended stays in what is supposed to be temporary detention at the Fallon Building in Baltimore). Thirty-two people died in ICE custody in 2025, the highest level since 2004. Human rights advocates, immigration lawyers and lawmakers have reported unsanitary conditions, inadequate food and poor medical care in ICE facilities. ICE detention facilities have been cited as serving worm-infested food or no food at all, having people sleeping on concrete floors, withholding medical treatment, denying access to legal representation, and throwing people into solitary without cause.

ICE expansion efforts across the country shows that adding more detention beds results in more community raids (rife with racial profiling and “collateral arrests” of bystanders), more people detained at routine ICE check-ins, and more community members detained for civil violations.

The consequences for our communities are severe. Our friends and neighbors, including those who have called Maryland home for decades, live in fear of being detained or deported, forcibly separated from their children, and prevented from supporting their families. This needs to stop.

It is vital that the State ensures that no town, county, or corporation is profiting from family separation or incarceration and that we minimize the risks immigrants face by protecting them from detention in every way possible, including banning facilities in our state by any means.

As part of the Maryland Immigrant Justice Table, along with CASA, we strongly support a clean bill which will prohibit to the extent possible, any ICE detention centers in Maryland. This is what will bring Maryland closer to our values.

For these reasons, **I strongly urge the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1018.**