

Jess Hencke
6552 Tinker Round
Columbia, MD 21045
District 13

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1018 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention
Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

2/12/2026

TO: Chair Melissa Wells and Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections
Committee

FROM: Jess Hencke

Chair Wells and Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee, my name is Jess Hencke and I live in Columbia, Maryland. I am writing to urge you to support HB1018 that will be another step in ensuring that, as much as we want to minimize detention centers in our state at all, of those that necessarily exist, they **MUST** provide a minimum standard of care to its residents.

It's no secret that privately owned prisons are not renowned for their living conditions or treatment of their prisoners. Be they inmates or detainees, private companies' singular goal is profit. We have seen the level of greed that leads to gross negligence of sufficient food, sleeping quarters, and medical care provisioned by the prison complex.

ICE agents have repeatedly ignored the rule of law and the civil rights guaranteed to all US residents in the Constitution, including undocumented immigrants. It is nigh guaranteed that the for-profit private companies holding the immigrants they bring in – the vast majority being innocent of any crime and here legally! – will treat them as well or worse than prisons for actual criminals.

Please support HB1018 to create an avenue to hold both detention centers and prisons accountable for humane treatment in Maryland.