

**House Bill 1018: Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities –
Minimum Mandatory Standards
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
February 12, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Wells, Vice-Chair Kerr, and members of the Committee,

My name is Eileen Zeller. I live in Clarksville – District 9A and (as I wrote in my testimony for HB 1017) I am one of the hundreds of Howard County residents who recently showed up at the Howard County Council meeting to support emergency legislation prohibiting privately-owned buildings from operating as detention centers in Howard County.

Given the fact that ICE agents regularly disregard the rule of law and the civil rights guaranteed to everyone in the United States, Maryland needs this legislation to ensure accountability for how civil detainees in immigration detention facilities are treated.

I urge a favorable report for HB 1017.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eileen Zeller
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