

HB 1018 - FAV
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Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB 1018- Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

February 10, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Wells and Delegates,

My name is Ruth White and I live in District 13, Howard County Maryland. I am writing in support of HB 1018 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

I attended the hearing at the Howard County Council recently on a county bill, Howard County CB16-2026 which is similar to HB1017 which is being heard in this committee also today. I and cannot begin to match the heartfelt eloquence of so many that testified that night.

A few reasons you should pass this statewide bill:

- There are daily reports of substandard conditions in prisons and holding facilities for civil detainees in immigration detention. Although hopefully HB1017 will pass and prevent such facilities in MD. But to the extent these facilities exist or may exist in the future, the provisions in this bill are crucial.
- The national immigrant system is quite broken. We should not be persecuting people who came here, many who are already here for many years making a life with their families. We should not scapegoat others because we and our politicians lack common sense solutions.
- Our treatment of the adults and children being held is a blot on our national conscience. We hope there will eventually be an accounting for those responsible for the major missteps and national dysfunction we see around us. Hopefully Maryland will pass this bill to mitigate some of the harm.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on HB 1018.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ruth White