

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

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
February 12, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB1018** Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities- Minimum Mandatory Standards

In 2025, ICE arrested more than 3,300 people in Maryland, more than twice the number arrested in 2024. Only one-third of those arrested had any criminal convictions, and just over half had no criminal charges whatsoever. Many have been living here for long periods of time. They contribute to our communities and have family here. Many have followed the legal requirements afforded to them in order to work toward citizenship.

ICE agents have repeatedly ignored the rule of law and the civil rights guaranteed to all US residents in the Constitution, including undocumented immigrants. There have been documented instances of inhumane conditions in the Baltimore detention center, with limited oversight allowed. Immigrants have had their civil rights violated, and across the country it has been reported that medical care has not been provided. Immigrants also report being beaten, lied to, tricked, pressured to self deport, and not being given the minimum standard of care. Family members and legal counsel have had difficulty locating people who have been detained within the system, and it is clearly a function of the system to keep movement of detainees hidden. None of this is acceptable.

The way in which we allow the atrocities of this administration or act in the best interest of the people defines who we are as a state and a nation.

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

Sincerely,
Angela Whalen