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TESTIMONY FOR HB1018
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stewart
Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections
Organization Submitting: Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD)
Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, co-founder
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony **in favor of HB1018** on behalf of Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD). IBBMD is a group of several hundred grassroots activists in Bowie and surrounding areas in Prince George's County, working to bring justice, equality, and people-centric legislation to Maryland.

I must state on behalf of our organization that we abhor the presence of any detention center for our immigrant neighbors in Maryland, or, in fact, in the United States. However, while we as human beings seek ways to end the horror of ICE and CBP treatment of our communities, the least we can do is ensure minimum standards of wellness and safety for people who are detained, usually on civil rather than criminal charges. HB1018 would requiring the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt regulations establishing certain minimum mandatory standards governing the care, custody, and conditions of civil detainees in immigration detention facilities, including adequate food, environmental conditions of cleanliness, adequate ventilation, heat and air conditioning appropriate to the climate conditions, and proper medical care. The bill also sets regulations for inspections, reporting of violations, and rectifying any violations. As well, staff must be properly certified in the standard qualifications of their position. Lastly, it provides whistleblower protections for anyone who in good faith reports a violation.

I cannot believe we even have to mandate these basic human needs for persons detained for civil violations, but that is the world our current federal government has handed us. I fully expect that Maryland lawmakers will exhibit basic humanity and vote to pass these standard minimum protections for our fellow human beings, many of whom are likely wrongly detained anyway. IBBMD urges that you **support HB1018** and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.