

**HB 1018 - Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum
Mandatory Standards
Government, Labor, and Elections February 12, 2026
SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, Delegate Stewart, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to issue a favorable report on HB 1018 and establish minimum standards for detention facilities in Maryland.

The federal government has intentionally allowed conditions in immigration detention facilities to become inhumane and degrading. This is part of a strategy meant to pressure people into self-deportation by making detention unbearable. Maryland must not be complicit in the dehumanization of immigrants by the federal government or its contractors.

We must work to uphold the human dignity of all within our borders. HB 1018 is a responsible and necessary step to ensure that Maryland upholds its values, protects vulnerable people, and asserts appropriate state oversight.

I encourage the State of Maryland to prohibit the conversion of any facility not initially, specifically designed for human habitation into an immigration detention facility. In addition, however, I believe the State must establish clear, enforceable minimum standards for any such facility operating within our borders. HB 1018 provides those critical protections. This bill will:

- Establish minimum safety and living standards.
- Ensure accountability and transparency.
- Empower meaningful state oversight.
- Create an enforcement mechanism.
- And protect local and state resources.

I urge you to return a favorable report on HB1018.

Kate Stein