

Subject

Testimony in Support of HB 1018 – Immigration Detention Facility Standards
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Deborah Shulman
4137 Danube Ct
Olney, MD 20832
debbie.j.shulman@gmail.com
240-461-0699

Bill: HB 1018 – Correctional Services – Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory Standards

Position: **Favorable**

Committee: House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

Hearing Date: February 12, 2026

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.

Washington County is currently allowing ICE to convert a warehouse into an immigration detention facility. If the State of Maryland is unable to stop this process, then it is absolutely essential that we establish **clear, enforceable minimum standards** for any such facility operating within our borders.

HB 1018 provides those critical protections. This bill:

- Establishes minimum safety and living standards
- Ensures accountability and transparency
- Empowers meaningful state oversight
- Creates an enforcement mechanism
- Protects local and state resources

These safeguards are long overdue. The federal government has deliberately allowed conditions in immigration detention facilities to become inhumane and degrading. This is not accidental—it is a strategy meant to pressure people into self-deportation by making detention unbearable.

Maryland must not be complicit in this approach.

Before a detention facility is allowed to operate in our communities, we must require strong safeguards that protect human dignity, public resources, and the values of this state.

I also want to be clear that I do not believe individuals who are not violent criminals should be detained at all. The enormous amount of money being spent on immigration detention does nothing to improve public safety and diverts resources away from what Marylanders actually need. This issue is not about crime—it is about immigration policy and human rights.

HB 1018 is a responsible and necessary step to ensure that Maryland upholds its values, protects vulnerable people, and asserts appropriate state oversight.

Please vote **Favorable** on HB 1018 and allow this bill to move forward to the full House for consideration.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

Sincerely,
Deborah Shulman
Olney, Maryland