

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

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

Government, Labor, and Elections

February 12, 2026

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

My name is Marian Marbury and I am a Baltimore City, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB 1018 – Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**

I support **HB 1018** because DHS has shown repeatedly that they are not capable of providing basic humane care to people in their custody. The video of the conditions in the ICE holding facility in Baltimore is horrific- no beds, few blankets, one toilet – conditions that are much worse than people who have been convicted of crimes and are in prison. There have been six deaths this year in the Detention Center in East Texas, and more than 30 since this mass deportation began. It is important to remember that, assuming they are not here legally (and given the number of citizens who have been swept up this is a generous assumption), they have still only committed a civil offense, not a criminal one. Detainment is not supposed to be a punishment. Clearly either the desire to deport as many people as quickly as possible before building up the infrastructure has overwhelmed their ability to treat undocumented immigrants as human beings, or the cruelty and neglect is the desired outcome.

And we are naïve to believe that all these detention facilities are only intended to hold undocumented immigrants awaiting deportation, when the current administration is labeling anyone who protests their unconstitutional activities as domestic terrorists. Where will all those protesters be put when the jails are too full to house them all?

I support detaining and deporting immigrants who have been convicted of committing crimes. But in the current situation it is imperative that the state of Maryland, at a minimum, require that anyone who is detained by the current regime to be treated as human beings.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.