

Dear **Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,**



This testimony is being submitted by the Baltimore Rapid Response Network, a coalition that formed in January of 2025 in order to help concerned community members connect with ways to get involved. My name is Jesse Reilly, and I'm a resident of Legislative District 40. BRRN are testifying as favorable to HB1018, to institute minimum mandatory standards for private immigration detention facilities.

Increasingly, footage and photographs of deplorable conditions in immigrant detention facilities are being leaked, it seems overcrowding, unsafe, and unsanitary is the rule rather than the exception. These conditions are inhumane, and unacceptable even for people convicted of violent crimes, yet overwhelmingly the people detained at such facilities have been denied any due process.

This bill would establish the minimum standards for conditions in immigration detention facilities, develop state oversight and process for reports made by the public, staff of the facilities, and guarantee the right to inspections. The idea that families are being ripped apart, and communities terrorized, and our neighbors kidnapped is terrifying enough, and as it stands there is no way to check on detainees or advocate for their wellbeing. We need to know detention centers will identify and rectify life-threatening deficiencies, and that the safety of the people will be prioritized above keeping substandard facilities in play.

Maryland has a system of minimum standards for correctional facilities, these are enforced regularly, and then overseen by the state Governor and GA. Incarcerated people are still people deserving of dignity and safety. As detainees, they are in a very vulnerable situation to begin with, and the private companies running detainment centers are able to commit all sorts of abuse on those in their care with absolutely no recourse. HB1018 would improve conditions in private immigrant detention facilities by subjecting them to the same standards and scrutiny as our state-run correctional facilities.

**It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in favor of HB1018.**

Sincerely,

Jesse Reilly, Baltimore Rapid Response Network