

From the Desk of Congressman David Trone

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, Government, Labor, & Elections
Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Kenneth Kerr
Vice Chair, Government, Labor, & Elections
Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

I am writing to express my support for *House Bill 1018 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards*, which sets clear minimum standards for the care and conditions of people held in immigration detention facilities in Maryland.

During my time in Congress, I worked to bring serious reforms to our criminal justice system. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I helped deliver hundreds of millions of dollars to invest in our facilities, including in Western Maryland, to ensure inmates have proper access to health care and that their dignity is respected. While that system remains far from perfect and I continue to work to improve it, it taught me a crucial lesson: when oversight is weak, harm follows. We must demand the same standards of care, fairness, and accountability for our immigration system.

Weeks ago, I laid eyes on the planned detention and processing center in Washington County. What we know about mass detention is stark: cramped spaces, limited access to medical care, lack of transparency, and the potential for prolonged confinement. These brutal conditions, and the thousands of people now subject to them, are only possible because Members of Congress have voted to expand mandatory ICE detention without establishing enforceable standards. This is not acceptable, and it should not be who we are as Marylanders.

House Bill 1018 establishes a clear, much-needed requirement of care and accountability. It ensures transparency and affirms that civil detention should never mean the loss of basic human dignity. These protections are not extraordinary—they are essential.

I urge you to support *House Bill 1018 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards* and thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David Trone

Former Member of Congress