

**Testimony:** [HB1018](#) – Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards  
**Hearing Date:** February 12, 2026  
**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Stewart  
**Committee:** Government, Labor, and Elections  
**Submitting:** Liz Feighner  
**Position:** Favorable

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Committee

My name is Liz Feighner and I live in District 13, Howard County Maryland. I am writing in support of HB 1018 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards.

As a resident of Howard County which recently found out about a warehouse being renovated to become ICE detention center, I fully support HC-1018. Thankfully, our county officials acted quickly to revoke the building permit and introduced legislation to prevent a private ICE detention center being built in Howard County in the future. But in the case of existing facilities, HB1018 seeks to strengthen oversight by the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards regarding these facilities.

As a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation immigrant, I am against the way ICE is operating throughout the nation and I'm fully against private detention centers being used by ICE for profit. However, for those that already exist, there needs to be an established minimum mandatory standard for the detainees in immigration detention facilities within Maryland.

Key purposes of HB1018 include:

- **Regulations on Care:** Mandating the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to set standards for conditions and treatment of civil detainees.
- **Commission Oversight:** Altering the duties of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards to include reporting on and reviewing violations in immigration facilities.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Requiring health care practitioners and security guards to report violations or security breaches to the Commission.
- **Inspections and Certification:** Requiring the Commission to inspect facilities and receive annual certifications regarding utilities and emergency preparedness.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Liz Feighner

Laurel, MD – District 13