

HB1018 - FAV
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Testimony on House Bill- HB1018 – Favorable
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
February 12, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Wells and Delegates,

My name is 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

I am the chair of Columbia Jewish Congregation's Social Justice Committee. We have been strong supporters of immigrants, their needs, their rights because we know what it is to be persecuted, to be desperately poor and be forced to leave our homes. No one leaves their country of origin on a whim.

The Torah commands us in 32 different places to care for the stranger. I am impelled by my faith to act to safeguard our neighbors from the deprivations of an out-of-control agency. The state must make sure detention facilities are safe. People are dying in ICE detention facilities now.

A few reasons you should pass this statewide bill:

- More than one in six Maryland residents are immigrants including many in my neighborhood. Many have lived here for decades, work in the community, pay taxes, and contribute to our state in multiple ways. I value living in a community with people of all backgrounds, cultures, and experiences.
- The national immigrant system is quite broken. We should not be persecuting people who came here, who are already here for many years making a life with their families. We should not scapegoat others because we and politicians are lacking common sense solutions.
- Private detention centers create fear and distrust in our community, making people afraid to go to work, take their children to school, and shop for basic necessities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on HB1018.

Thank you for your time and consideration.