

**Testimony on HB1018: Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards**

**Government, Labor, and Elections Committee**

**February 10, 2026**

**Position: Favorable**

My name is Tatiana Santos and I am a resident of Frederick, MD. I strongly urge the committee to pass HB1018.

This bill seeks to codify common-sense guardrails on operators of detention centers and correctional facilities. Given the [human rights abuses we are seeing at the Fallon Center](#) in Baltimore, where a hundred or more immigrants are crammed into tight spaces with no access to clean water or facilities, I see a clear need for to develop laws that will enforce basic health and safety standards on building operations.

This upcoming year, new government contracts for CoreCivic and Geo Group are expected to generate \$1B in revenue for each company (see investment news: [GEO Group](#) and [CoreCivic](#)). Their CEOs appear giddy with excitement over their expected earnings with CoreCivic then-CEO stating [on an earnings call](#) last year, “I have worked at CoreCivic for 32 years, and this is truly one of the most exciting periods in my career with the company.” GEO Group’s CEO J. David Donahue has [expressed the same sentiment](#), saying the company is “very excited to support the mission at hand.”

Both companies have a lot to gain and little rules to follow. Their mission is to create these detention centers as quickly as possible with little care for how the centers treat human beings being detained or incarcerated inside their facilities.

Maryland has an obligation to implement laws that protect the health and safety of all human beings, especially those who are detained or incarcerated. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB1018.