

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB1018 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

February 12, 2026

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

I am writing on behalf of IndivisibleHoCoMD to offer favorable testimony in support of HB1018 Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities – Minimum Mandatory

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, IndivisibleHoCoMD has more than 1,700 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. There are 49 Indivisible groups in Maryland and over 2,500 nationwide.

More than one in six Maryland residents are immigrants. Many have lived here for decades, work in the community, pay taxes, and contribute to our state in multiple ways. Maryland values its residents of all backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. Allowing any immigrant detention centers in Maryland is antithetical to our state's values and demonstrated economic need for immigrants.*

There is abundant evidence that conditions in ICE-run detention centers are deplorable, unhealthy, and inhumane. A recent report and video from a former employee in the Baltimore detention center clearly documents incredibly poor sanitation and massive overcrowding with detainees sleeping on concrete floors. Conditions in private detention facilities are often worse than in public facilities since private facilities prioritize profit over decent conditions for detainees.**

Maryland cannot allow this kind of mistreatment of anyone in our state. We also cannot sanction and facilitate the illegal actions of ICE agents who have repeatedly ignored the rule of law and the civil rights guaranteed to all US residents in the Constitution, including undocumented immigrants.

IndivisibleHoCoMD urges the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB1018.**

Laurie Liskin, on behalf of IndivisibleHoCoMD
Howard County, Maryland 21042

*Comptroller of Maryland State of the Economy Series: Immigration and the Economy, April 2024

**<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/bja/181249.pdf>

