

Andrew Lewis

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District 21

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1018 - Correctional Services - Immigration Detention  
Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards

2/12/2026

TO: Chair Melissa Wells and Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections  
Committee

FROM: Andrew Lewis

Chair Wells and Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee, my name is Andrew and I live in Odenton, Maryland. I am writing to urge you to support HB1017 that will be another step in ensuring that, as much as we want to minimize detention centers in our state at all, of those that necessarily exist, they MUST provide a minimum standard of care to its residents.

It's no secret that privately owned prisons are not renowned for their living conditions or treatment of their prisoners. Be they inmates or detainees, private companies' singular goal is profit. We have seen the level of greed that leads to gross negligence of sufficient food, sleeping quarters, and medical care provisioned by the prison complex.

ICE agents have repeatedly ignored the rule of law and the civil rights guaranteed to all US residents in the Constitution, including undocumented immigrants. It is nigh guaranteed that the for-profit private companies holding the immigrants they bring in will treat them worse than any human being should be treated.

Human beings are not horses or chattel, they are not things to be made profits off of. Do not let greed win out in our state, or in your minds!