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TESTIMONY ON HB1018 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Correctional Services - Immigration Detention Facilities - Minimum Mandatory Standards
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
February 12, 2026

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

My name is Laura Atwood. I am a resident of District 20, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1018.

These are dire times. My community—neighborhoods, schools, small businesses, families—is being devastated by daily abductions. We no longer even need to look toward history to see what can happen; we are there, right now. We must reject this in every possible way.

I believe there is no safe detention, no harmless destruction of families. Yet what we can do, at the very least, is: demand transparency, accountability, and basic standards.

I support this and other immigration bills because of my belief in the deep inherent worth of every individual, and in the inherent interconnectedness of all of us. More specifically, I am a physical therapist, a parent of young adult children, and a community member who has lived internationally and has long been involved with people who've immigrated to this country under a variety of circumstances. People who have immigrated enrich my personal life (I've been married to one for 29 years!), my workplace and social circles, and my local community. Every individual who is detained and/or deported is a human being with dignity, deserving of compassion and of justice under constitutional, international, and moral law.

And every individual who is detained and/or deported is part of a larger community—often including children and vulnerable adults. How many of you have children, or (!) have been children? What is the lifelong impact of losing a parent at a young age, or at any age? How much lifelong trauma are we as a society inflicting—by letting ICE create so much loss, and also realistic fear of this loss??

I therefore respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1018. Thank you.