

Hb1017

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

I am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of HB1017 Correctional Services - Private Immigration Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement.

- 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.
- In 2025, ICE arrested more than 3,300 people in Maryland, more than twice the number arrested in 2024. Only one-third of those arrested had any criminal convictions, and just over half had no criminal charges whatsoever. If we allow ICE to build detention centers in Maryland, more innocent people will be arrested.
- 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.
- The proposed detention facilities should not be next to schools, parks, medical offices, and residential neighborhoods.
- ICE agents have repeatedly ignored the rule of law

and the civil rights guaranteed to all US residents in the Constitution, including undocumented immigrants.

I urge the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1017.

Thank you

Casey Leonardi 21638