



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0850  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – IMMIGRATION DETENTION - PROHIBITION (DIGNITY NOT  
DETENTION ACT)**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Sydnor

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0850 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

We have all been shocked and horrified by how intrusive immigration enforcement has become in our society and how the focus has changed to now consider immigrants and refugees as though they are all hardened criminals. More detention facilities have sprung up, and incarcerating immigrants has become a money-making proposition. That is not how we should behave. We should not profit off of someone else's pain.

And, thinking for a moment that having new detention centers will somehow make the incarceration conditions more favorable for immigrants is completely mistaken. What is happening in Maryland with immigrant detention is already horrific, as many of the people who visit immigrants in detention facilities have attested to. We cannot just turn a blind eye and think about the revenue implications. We must stop this practice.

Please don't allow any more detention facilities in Maryland! Close down the ones that we already have that are run by private companies with little accountability and an eye towards making money. We need to re-think detention vs ankle bracelets or some other way of keeping track of undocumented immigrants while they are waiting to have their cases heard. Allow them to be productive citizens vs treating them as criminals.

Be very wary of allowing additional incarceration infrastructure to be built in Maryland, as the long-term effects of that policy would be to have a state full of crumbling prisons. This is not who we are in Maryland. We urge you to not participate in this dehumanizing business.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

