

February 25, 2020

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB677**  
**Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition**  
**(Dignity Not Detention Act)**

**TO:** Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Jerry Kickenson

I am writing in support of House Bill 677, the Dignity Not Detention Act as a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland and District 18.

Jewish sacred text and tradition teach us to welcome the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Leviticus 19:34 explicitly instructs us to treat the immigrant in our land the same as native citizens. Native citizens are not incarcerated and separated from their families for civil offenses. My Jewish tradition is also rooted in liberation. I believe in liberation and that immigrant families should be united and free - never incarcerated.

HB677 would end state and local agency involvement in the cruel, immoral and counterproductive incarceration of immigrants and require transparency in any zoning or permitting decisions taken by local jurisdictions that enable private facilities that intend to incarcerate immigrants within Maryland.

**I strongly urge you to reach a favorable report for HB677.** It is the moral and right thing to do.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry Kickenson  
Thank you.