

HB 677- DIGNITY NOT DETENTION ACT- SUPPORT

Dear Rep. Stewart,

I'm writing in support of the Dignity not Detention bill that you introduced to the Maryland Legislature. I live on the Eastern Shore in Kent County, just a stone's throw away from the town of Sudlersville. Recently the town was approached by ICA, a for-profit prison company that runs detention centers for ICE. The town is in a great deal of debt due to a series of bad decisions, and the town commissioners jumped at the offer. They were proctoring a deal that would sell ICE a parcel of land adjacent to the middle school in the heart of their small charming town. While publicly, the town commissioners say that the project is no longer on the table, they are actively changing the town ordinances to allow ICE to move in--there is a vote occurring on March 4 to allow a detention center in spite of a strong display of opposition at previous meetings. The current detention system is immoral in many ways, and one of these ways is how companies like ICA prey on small towns like Sudlersville, promising them revenue and jobs, and using them instead. Your bill would ensure that these types of situations do not become the norm in rural areas like mine.

Sincerely,
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