



Nicholas Galloway - Liaison
Sanctuary DMV
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**HB 677 - SUPPORT
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES - IMMIGRATION DETENTION -
PROHIBITION (DIGNITY NOT DETENTION ACT)**

Judiciary Committee
February 25, 2020

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of organizers and supporters of Sanctuary DMV, we support HB 677 urge this committee to report favorably on this legislation. Sanctuary DMV is an all-volunteer group that stands in solidarity with immigrant and marginalized communities based in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Our mission is to support communities that are directly impacted by anti-immigrant policies and sentiments.

The passage and implementation HB 677 is conducive to our goal of supporting directly impacted communities in the State of Maryland. Right now, our neighbors are suffering and dying in immigration detention across the state. Individuals in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are routinely met with medical neglect, isolation, and abuse at the hands of detention officials. Since November of 2016, 26 people have died amidst the abhorrent conditions of ICE detention. In December of 2019, 56 year old Anthony Akinyemi died in ICE detention in the Worcester County Jail.

On behalf of ICE, many of these facilities are run by private entities such as Immigration Centers of America (ICA), which has pinpointed Maryland as a site for detention expansion. ICA's facilities have been cited for serving worm-infested food, withholding medical treatment, denying access to legal representation, and throwing people into solitary without cause. The expansion of these facilities by ICE and contractors such as ICA facilitates more targeting and arrests of our neighbors, which in turn creates more abuses and inhumane conditions for them to face. Sanctuary DMV has supported detainees and their families, and as such we can attest that immigrant detention - both private and public - is an incredible detriment to our immigrant neighbors in Maryland and across the country.

HB 677's provisions to 1) phase out existing local/state contracts fostering immigrant detention, and 2) banning any new local/state contracts with private immigration detention companies, will keep ICE and its contractors out of Maryland, protect our immigrant communities, and make sure that no town, county, or corporation is profiting from family separation or incarceration. HB

677 will drastically reduce the harm that ICE is able to inflict upon our immigrant neighbors, and will be a boon to the welfare of the State of Maryland as a result. We urge a favorable report on HB 677.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Galloway,
Organizer
Sanctuary DMV